



JOBS...

Helping you make
the right choice

PAGES 42-44



PROPERTY...

Why rural France
remains the ideal

PAGES 31-36



SPORT...

Round-up of all
the local action

PAGES 46-47



COUNCIL TAX RISES ABOVE INFLATION

Despite the recession, average home will pay £33 more

COUNCIL tax is set to rise by nearly three per cent in the next financial year.

The hike was revealed by Medway Council as part of the authority's draft budget plans for 2010-11.

It would see the council tax bill for an average band 'D' property jump from £1,092 to £1,125 – up £33.

Council bosses said this figure was still £120 lower than those paid by homeowners living in similar homes in neighbouring KCC boundaries and among the lowest unitary authority taxes in the country.

Finance boss Alan Jarrett said the

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

council was facing "some pain" as a result of caps on increasing tax, a lack of Government funding and increased need for cost-cutting.

"We provide a huge range of services for residents and have to do this on a lot less money than similar councils," he said.

"These services include schools, social services, waste collection, housing and maintenance of roads, as well as regeneration.

"Medway is rated as providing good value for money year after year, and

was rated as performing well in its comprehensive area assessment this year.

"But when it comes to organising our budget for the next financial year we are always expected to do this with much less money than similar sized councils.

"Medway is a growing area in transition and this should be reflected in the amount it has available from its total formula grant. This would ensure our area adapts as the whole of the Thames Gateway grows."

Medway will receive a total formula grant of just over £85 million, equat-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



ROCK ME, AMADEUS

Inbetweeners star James Buckley, pictured, will be in Medway next month to play a guest DJ slot at Amadeus nightclub.

The 22-year-old, best known for playing crude schoolboy Jay Cartwright in the hit Channel 4 comedy, will take to the club's decks on Tuesday, March 2, from 9.30pm.

Fans will also be given the chance to meet the up-and-coming actor, who recently starred in Only Fools and Horses spin-off show Rock and Chips, at a special VIP area meet and greet session.

For more information, email guestlist@amadeusnightclub.com or call 01634 723370.



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BLOGGER PAGE 12

COMPETITION PAGE 15

LETTERS PAGES 16-17

LEISURE PAGES 18-28



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3 Kent Police Chief Constable Michael Fuller talks about his decision to leave the Force. **Search 'Fuller'**

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MP to appeal over claims bill for £11,000

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PAUL Clark has been asked to repay £11,000 of taxpayers' money – cash he claimed for his second home.

The Gillingham and Rainham MP was recommended to hand back the sum by Sir Thomas Legg, who carried out an in-depth audit of all MPs' ACA payments, also known as the second home allowance.

Mr Clark said the request was due to a clerical error on his part and that he had already appealed against the decision.

He said: "This is simply an oversight on my part."

"Sir Thomas wrote to me in a letter dated December 8 and as it was the run-up to Christmas I failed to read it carefully."

"The letter asked for information in respect to my 2008/09 mortgage interest claims."

"By the time I realised what the letter was asking for, the deadline for providing the evidence of my claims had gone."

"Technically, Sir Thomas had no choice but to publish in his report a recommendation that I repay the sum of more than £11,000."

"I have now provided the evidence that Sir Thomas requested and I am sure this will be sufficient as the evidence I have provided for every other year has been accepted."

Sir Thomas' audit also recommended that Mr Clark repay an additional £164.94, after claiming £549.95 for a new washing machine in October 2004, above the guideline price of £385.

Mr Clark said he had already repaid this amount.

Medway MP Bob Marshall-Andrews was urged to repay a £231 council tax overpayment in 2007/08,



CLERICAL ERROR: MP Paul Clark believes his appeal will be accepted by the inquiry

which he has already done, while Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw was found to have "no ACA issues".

Sir Thomas's 243-page report into ACA payments lambasts the entire second home allowance system.

He wrote: "The rules were vague, and MPs themselves self-certifying as to the propriety of their use of the allowance."

"Taken with the prevailing lack of transparency and the 'culture of deference', this meant the Fees Office's decisions lacked legitimacy."

Sir Thomas has urged MPs to repay £1.1m between them.

More than half of Parliament's 75 MPs were asked to make a repayment. Three have been asked to repay sums of more than £40,000, the highest being £65,000.

A further 56 have been recommended to pay between £5,000 and £40,000.

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Supernanny to keep order at book store

NAUGHTY young shoppers beware – Supernanny Jo Frost is coming to Bluewater.



The TV star, best known for helping parents bring their children into line, will sign copies of her new book at the shopping centre's Waterstone's store on Sunday, February 28.

Bookseller at the store and soon-to-be mum-of-three Tamaryn Johnson said: "We're delighted to be welcoming Jo for a book signing. She's one of the most recognisable and trusted faces when it comes to childcare skills."

Jo Frost's Confident Baby Care costs £14.99.

Fatal stabbing charge woman on remand

A WOMAN has appeared in court charged with stabbing a pensioner to death.

Kim Albone, 39, of Luton Road, Chatham, went before Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, February 5 accused of murdering 66-year-old Antoine Denis.

Mr Denis was found at his flat in Copperfield House, New Road, Chatham, on the evening of Saturday, January 9. He had been killed by a single stab wound.

Albone was remanded in custody until her next court hearing on Thursday, April 22. Her trial will provisionally begin on Monday, July 26.

Postman Pat delivers fun to shopping centre

POSTMAN Pat will make a special stop-off at Hempstead Valley next week to meet and greet shoppers.

Pat and his trusty side-kick Jess the cat will take a tour of the shopping centre at regular intervals throughout Wednesday, February 17.

Toytown favourites Noddy and Big Ears will also head for Hempstead Valley on Friday, 19.

The appearances are part of the centre's free half-term family fun.

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Hundreds say farewell to hit-and-run victim

■ BY ANNA WHITE

HUNDREDS of family and friends have paid their final respects to the father-of-five who was killed in a hit-and-run incident just days after Christmas.

The funeral of Jack Treeby, 43, from Rainham, was held at 10.30am on Monday at St Peter's Church in Bredhurst.

His coffin was taken to the church in a horse drawn carriage and was followed by eight black limousines and seven flat bed lorries, each carrying huge floral tributes thought to be worth thousands of pounds.

The flower arrangements included a bench press, tractor, forklift truck, a train and a large photo of Mr Treeby with the words 'My brother Jack'.

The funeral party then travelled to Chatham Cemetery in Maidstone Road.

Police were on scene to manage the large convoy of cars.

Speaking shortly after the Mr Treeby's death, wife Karen said he worshipped her and their children.

She said: "He did not deserve what happened to him. I feel like my heart has been ripped open."

"We have been robbed of a wonderful, caring man who will live in our hearts forever."

Several family members who were not present at the funeral included one of the victim's brothers, Bill Treeby, 49, Bill's wife Charity, 50,



CORTEGE: Trucks carry the huge floral tributes to hit-and-run victim Jack Treeby, right



and their sons Billy, 29, and George, 22. The four, all of Queen Street, Paddock Wood, have been charged with Mr Treeby's murder. The sons have also been charged with the attempted murder of their other uncle, Gary Treeby.

The tragedy took place at 7pm on December 27, when Jack Treeby was crushed beneath the wheels of a Range Rover that sped towards him in Quarry Road, Tovil, in Maidstone.

Gary Treeby, 39, was also hit by the vehicle and suffered life-threatening injuries, exacerbated by the gunshot wounds he also received. It is thought he has now recovered.

The deceased's son – also called Jack – suffered minor injuries when he was clipped by the 4x4 as it sped away.

Police believe they may have recovered the vehicle used in the attack, burnt out in Tong Lane, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

A forensic examination of the car showed the remains of a firearm and ammunition inside the vehicle.

Inquiries are ongoing.

The four charged relatives are expected to enter a plea at Maidstone Crown Court on April 9.



Jailed for attack on teenage boy

A THUG has been jailed for three years after smashing a porcelain cup into a teenage schoolboy's face.

Aaron Hopkins, of Tennyson Avenue, Cliffe, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, January 29, after pleading guilty to a charge of grievous bodily harm.

The court heard how Hopkins, 20, attacked his 14-year-old victim at a Cliffe house in the early hours of Sunday, August 9, after an argument turned violent.

Hopkins armed himself with a cup before hitting the youngster in the face, leaving him with a deep cut.

Following sentencing Detective Constable Clare Gibson said: "Hopkins showed a clear intent on causing an injury by threatening the victim and proceeding to hit him with force using a makeshift weapon."

"The injury sustained was serious and may leave permanent scarring."

"We are pleased that the judge has recognised the severity of the incident and hope this sentence demonstrates that Kent police in Medway will not tolerate violent incidents of this nature."

Medway 'pays price for other authorities'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
ing to £329 per person.

Council bosses argue that the funding system is flawed, with similar-sized authorities receiving more money than Medway.

A spokesman said: "Derby City Council has 20,000 fewer residents than Medway, but will get nearly £25 million more in its total formula grant from the Government, or more than £459 per person."

"Equally, Brighton and Hove, which has 4,000 fewer residents than Medway, will receive about £24 million extra, or a total of £429 a head."

"Perversely, as part of the formula, Medway actually loses some of its grant entitlement to councils such as Brighton and Hove to enable them to continue to receive a minimum level of increase."

"This mechanism, known as 'floor damping', takes £4.3m away from Medway annually."

The council's total budget requirement for the next financial year stands at just under £379 million.

The budget will be discussed by cabinet members on Tuesday, and by the full council on Thursday, February 25.

Celebrations mark the start of Chinese Year of the Tiger

DRAGON dancers, kung fu masters and Tai Chi experts will perform across Medway this weekend to mark Chinese New Year.

The colourful celebrations to herald the beginning of the Year of the Tiger will begin in Chatham High Street this Saturday.

Entertainment will be provided by the Medway Lion Dance Team, the talented young dancers from Alley Dance, who will showpiece traditional Chinese folk dances and the Chatham-based Shi Kon Martial Arts dojo will be joining the celebrations for the first time.

There will also be a series of Chinese stalls open from 11.30am which will sell Chinese decorations and gifts.

The celebrations continue on Sunday, when hundreds of costumed characters will take to the streets for a High Street parade from noon.

Rochester will also host a Chinese New Year show at 2.30pm.

The 12-year Chinese Zodiac calendar names its years after animals,



with the year of the tiger being the third sign.

Celebrities born in a year of the Tiger include Queen Elizabeth II, Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, John Steinbeck, Beethoven and Marilyn Monroe.

Traditions also believe that the year of the tiger will help to ward off the three main tragedies of the household, which are fire, thieves and ghosts.

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Mayday festival folk acts

TWO award-winning acts are to play at the Rochester Sweeps Festival.

Bellowhead and Cara Dillon, who picked up accolades at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, have both been lined up to perform at the annual May Day celebration.

Eleven-piece band Bellowhead, who won the best live act prize, will perform on the opening night, performing in the Rochester Castle Gardens marquee on Saturday, May 1, at 7.30pm.

Irish singer Dillon is scheduled to play on the following day at 7.30pm.

It's a fair five-a-side cop

MEDWAY Islamic Society took on the police in a friendly five-a-side game of football.

The match – narrowly won by the Islamic society team – was organised by PCSO Phillip Harrison in a bid to strengthen ties with the group.

He said: "Once we were challenged to the game, neighbourhood officers were more than willing to give up one of their evenings to take part. We hope to make this a regular game and continue our good relationships with the Islamic group."

The final score was 17-14.

Keep road safety in mind

A ROAD safety roadshow will call at Hempstead Valley next week to remind motorists to keep their minds on the road.

Safety campaigners will set up stall at the shopping centre at 11am on Tuesday, February 16, and call on shoppers to Engage Their Brains.

Promotional goodies will be handed out throughout the day. There will also be a magic show, face painting and balloons for the children, while adults will have the chance to win a zorbing experience – riding inside a giant inflatable ball – for two.

A chance to call the tune

WANNABE pop stars can learn how to create songs at a workshop today (Wednesday).

The Circus of Discovery will set up at the Hundred of Hoo School to welcome aspiring artists. The free sessions, which run from 5pm, will allow visitors to try informal taster sessions including film-making and editing, yoga and book-binding.

The touring educational show will visit community centres throughout Medway until March.

For more information, call 01634 338400 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/adultlearning.

Returning GP praises Camp Bastion team

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A HOSPITAL in the middle of the Afghan desert under constant threat from the Taliban is a far cry from the usual day-to-day work of a GP.

But Colonel Peter Gilbert, from the Thorndike surgery in Rochester, has just returned from leading a team of 200 medical staff at the main hospital in Camp Bastion, saving the lives of injured soldiers serving on the frontline. The 51-year-old, who is the commanding officer for the Territorial Army's 256 City of London field hospital, spoke about his inspiring team and the shocking injuries seen on a daily basis.

"If you imagine in the UK a very serious car accident and the kind of injuries inflicted, well the average person working for the NHS will only see this perhaps once a year," he said.

"In Camp Bastion these kinds of injuries, caused by bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), are all centred in one place, so you have to get used to seeing it. All the people in Helmand province – soldiers from Britain, America, Denmark as well as Afghan security – are all brought to Camp Bastion for treatment.

"Some of the injuries were very unpleasant to see and could be quite a shock, but the training we had before we went was to make sure everyone was ready to cope with it."

Col Gilbert, who was away for three-and-a-



ARMS AND THE MAN: Colonel Peter Gilbert, right, with colleagues during his stint at Camp Bastion

half months, said he had seen his fair share of horrific cases. The hospital dealt with the five men who were killed by a rogue Afghan policeman in November. Col Gilbert said: "Five were killed and quite a few were injured, so my team had to make sure they lived. I've been praised for saving those lives, but it was my team – they were inspiring."

Another tragic case was the death of bomb disposal expert Captain Dan Read, who was born and raised in Medway. The 31-year-old was treated at the hospital in October, when shrapnel ripped into his shoulder. He recovered

from his injuries and returned to his duties, but was later killed defusing a roadside bomb.

Col Gilbert said: "He was in the Camp Bastion hospital and the nurses got to know him well. They were devastated when they heard what had happened."

Col Gilbert is now back on British soil and will return to his surgery next month.

"The Americans on the team are doing a six-month tour, so they are still in Afghanistan. It was strange leaving them behind. The Scottish TA has taken over our job now, but I still feel like part of me is out there," he said.

Sleep-out solidarity with plight of homeless



HEARTWARMING: Ready for sleep-out

MORE than 170 fundraisers braved sub-zero conditions to take part in a charity sleep-out.

The eighth annual event saw the volunteers once again swap their beds for cardboard boxes, raising awareness of the plight of the homeless.

Men and women huddled together outside MHS Homes' Chatham Maritime headquarters from 9pm until 6am the following day.

More than £19,000 was raised for Caring Hands in the Community and the British Heart Foundation. MHS Homes chief executive Ashley Hook said: "The evening was a tremendous success, not just because of the amount raised but because the whole community was pulling

together. Curry was donated and served by Medway Gurudwara and Nacro. We had cakes donated by residents, staff and neighbours who simply wanted to do something to help."

"Then there were the boxes, logs, materials and other supplies to help everyone keep warm, donated by a long list of local firms kind enough to help us out."

Caring Hands in the Community's centre manager Marti Brogan said: "When you're homeless you may feel helpless, but a community like Medway will never leave people hopeless."

"That's what it's all about, caring for and supporting people who are less advantaged."

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HA'WAY THE LAUGHS: Preparing to shoot a scene as Gills fans hit the road in The Shouting Men

All over bar the shouting in Gills comedy release

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A COMEDY film about a group of travelling Gillingham FC supporters hits cinema screens across the country next month.

The Shouting Men, which was shot mostly at locations throughout Kent and features a cameo by chairman Paul Scally, will premiere in London just days before its nationwide release on March 5.

Producer Warren Llambias – son of Newcastle United managing director Derek – said he was confident the film would be a success. He said: "It's funny and I promise you it will make people laugh a lot. It's proven popular with test audiences and I think it'll go down well, I really do.

"I don't imagine we'll be up for any Baftas, but I think it's a great little popcorn film that people will come out from saying they had a really good time. Comedy films don't receive cinema releases if they're not funny."

"To get to where we have with our first film, and on a budget of only £500,000, is a real achievement and we're delighted."

The Shouting Men, which also features cameos by England football legends John Barnes and Peter Beardsley, is about a group of Gillingham fans who travel to watch their team play Newcastle United in the FA Cup.

However, their trip north goes pear-shaped when they abandon a wheelchair-bound accomplice – or a closet football hooligan – who then complains about his treatment to the national press.

Mr Llambias, who plays one of the Gills fans, said he wanted the film to encapsulate the types of supporters found at lower-league football grounds.

He said: "We needed to pick a club that has to fight. When you walk around Medway you see more people wearing Tottenham, Arsenal and Man United colours than you do Gillingham shirts. A small club like that has



GILLS ON FILM: FA Cup clash sets the movie scene

to fight to get its supporters, and that's something we really wanted to dip into.

"I think there's also a special type of camaraderie between the supporters of teams like Gillingham, and any lower league fan should be able to recognise that in the film."

"I wasn't a Gills supporter before we began shooting but I've become quite attached to the club over the months."

"I'm sure some supporters will remember a couple of years ago when we first came down here to pick their brains about what it was like to be a Gills fan."

Filming for the comedy, which stars former Lovejoy actor Dudley Sutton and ex-EastEnder Craig Fairbrass, was completed at Newcastle's St James' Park in late 2008.

Other locations included Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium, the University of Greenwich at Chatham, and the Inn on the Lake hotel in Gravesend.

Mr Llambias admits a spanner was thrown into the works when Gillingham were promoted from League Two last season and Newcastle were relegated from the Premiership, thus making the "David versus Goliath" story less prominent.

He said: "It was really frustrating and we did talk about maybe going back and changing some of the dialogue. But we decided that Newcastle are still a huge club and will probably be back in the Premiership next year anyway."

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Heart attack fraud claims

A FRAUDSTER who claimed more than £1,500 in incapacity benefits while working as a mechanic has been sentenced.

Adrian Fulkes, of Keating Close, Rochester, began claiming benefits in June, 2008, after a heart attack. He used the condition to claim nearly £4,000 in incapacity, council tax and housing benefits. But investigations by Medway Council's benefits team found the 48-year-old's heart attack had not affected him as much as he let on.

A month after the attack, Fulkes started work repairing quad-bikes and 4x4s, and giving safety talks. His employer paid him a total of £4,460 between July and December, 2008. He appeared before Medway magistrates on January 18, where he pleaded guilty to a range of benefits offences.

He was sentenced to 150 hours' unpaid work, ordered to pay £150 costs and repay overpayments of £3,798.52.

Pest control expert's talk

A LECTURE focusing on sustainable fruit growing takes place at the University of Greenwich at Medway tomorrow (Thursday).

The talk – To Spray Or Not To Spray – examines pest management and will be in the Pilkington lecture theatre from 6pm.

Professor Jerry Cross, who will deliver the lecture, uses his knowledge of insects and plants to lead scientists in the development of new strategies of insect control, helping to protect fruit crops. Call 01634 883911, or email h.m.mcavoy-marshall@gre.ac.uk for more information.

Not strictly for the birds

BIRD-lovers are being invited to Riverside Country Park from this weekend to witness "a feathered whirlwind".

The RSPB said the Gillingham reserve will play host to hundreds of thousands of waders, ducks and geese during the next week, as the birds flock from northern breeding grounds.

The mudflats provide an ideal habitat for the migrating birds during the cold months.

David James of the RSPB said: "The feeding flurry as they move quickly along the mud is quite spectacular."

For more information call 01634 22480 or visit www.rspb.org.uk/reserves.

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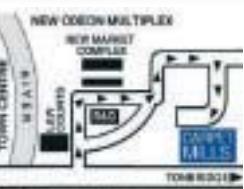
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Specialist advisor to help sexually-abused children



SUPPORT: The Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor will help to give abused children a voice

Grant will provide dedicated support for young rape victims

A CHARITY supporting Kent's victims of rape and sexual violence has secured funding for Britain's first-ever children's independent advisor.

The new position means young people who have suffered abuse at the hands of rapists and paedophiles can access specialist, confidential support solely for youngsters.

Gravesend-based Family Matters was able to make the provision thanks to a grant of £64,000 from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

Malcolm Gilbert, operations director at the charity, said the new Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (YP-ISVA) was vital.

He said: "Of the 200 rape victims we see, a quarter are aged 12 to 16.

"By offering this help we are filling a gap which has never been done before for children."

Mr Gilbert added that as well as

■ BY MARIJKE COX

being awarded the grant, the partnership between Family Matters, the Crown Prosecution Service and Kent Police through the Kent Criminal Justice Board had made real changes to victim support.

The organisations are also working with the UK Border Agency to help deal with young girls who have been trafficked for the sex trade.

Rebecca Masey, who has taken on the YP-ISVA position, will offer tailored support to children and young people who have suffered rape or sexual abuse and act as a gateway to the charity's therapy service.

Risk assessments will take place to ensure further victimisation is stopped. The focus will be on hard-to-reach groups and youngsters less likely to come forward for help. Close family members of victims will also receive support.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian

Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said he was sure that the specialist service would also help secure convictions.

"Through this role, vulnerable and emotionally-scared children will get more of the help and support they need and deserve," he said.

One person who knows only too well the need for services like Family Matters is 24-year-old Sarah (not her real name).

Last August she was raped by two men after her drink was spiked. Speaking about her ordeal to KOS Media, she said she would not have been able to cope had it not been for the Adults' Independent Sexual Violence Advisor.

"It's important children are helped too," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to get through this without the counselling."

"I would just say to anybody, don't hide it. Come forward and get help."

For more information, go to www.familymattersuk.org.

Artifacts saved as fire museum made homeless

THE Kent fire service museum urgently needs a new home.

Fire chiefs have reluctantly been forced to move it from their Maidstone headquarters and are now hunting for a new location to house the collection.

Fire service historian Roger Mardon, from Canterbury, said he was sad about the closure but delighted his campaign to keep the collection together had been successful.

He said: "In my view, the museum should preferably be maintained at service headquarters, but if that were not to be it is important to preserve the collection intact."

"There was unanimous support [at the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority's planning and performance committee] for the principle of keeping the collection together."

"A project team, including representatives of the interested parties, is to be established to develop plans for a virtual [online] museum and for rehousing the artefacts."

Committee chairman Keith Ferrin made it clear it was not the intention to close the existing museum straight away and he undertook that everything possible would be done to rehouse the collection in one place.

"While it is disappointing the museum will have to move, I am encouraged by the support for keeping the collection together. Every effort must be made to find somewhere this can be done."

The museum opens one day a week and includes artefacts including videos of fire, photographs and a hollowed-out tree trunk used as a water main.

A fire service spokesman said: "We have teams of staff who need to be located at our HQ to run the service and we do not have room to house them."

"This means we have to look at all options and freeing up space taken up by the museum has to be considered."



HISTORY:
This Bromley steamer is one of many fascinating artefacts to be seen at the museum

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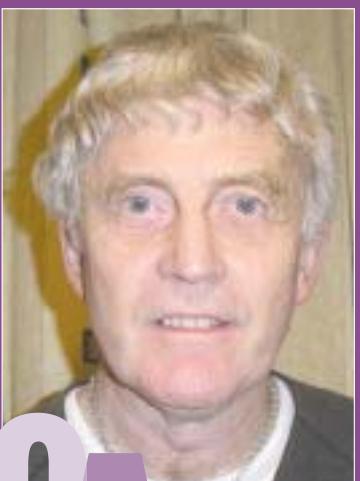
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QUESTION & ANSWER

ROBIN SMITH



Q & A

The committee member of the Medway RSPB talks to reporter **Matthew Beech** about how he got involved with the group, and what we can all do to encourage birdlife and wildlife in our own gardens

Q Tell us a bit about yourself

A My name is Robin Smith and I am a recently retired architectural assistant.

Q What sparked your interest in birds and wildlife?

A I first became aware of the fact that we were despoiling our environment during the sixties. It was later, however, on a camping holiday in France that wildlife experts helped spark an interest in birds, flowers and nature.

Q How did you become involved with the RSPB?

A I went along to a few meetings of the Medway RSPB group and one night they put out a plea for someone to take on the role of membership secretary. I put my hand up and 25 years later I'm still a committee member.

Q What does the Medway branch of the RSPB do?

A The main purpose of the network of local groups is to support the main national RSPB by raising money, recruiting new members and by raising awareness of the aims of the organisation.

We do this by attending local fêtes, fairs and events. We are not generally a 'hands on' group but some of our members do help out with manual work at the local reserves.

Q What has been your biggest challenge?

A Most people are pretty sympathetic to the work of the RSPB. I suppose the hardest thing to get across is the extent of decline being experienced by some bird species. What were once very common birds just 20 or 30 years ago are now in severe decline as a result of habitat destruction, climate change, population pressures, development and modern agricultural practices.

The other main challenge is getting people to appreciate the very real threat of climate change against a backdrop of negative information being peddled by other groups with vested interests. It is in the interests of big business to play down this threat as any mitigation action could impinge upon their profit.

Q Just how severe would a potential estuary airport be for the local ecosystems and bird populations?

A The airport would damage or destroy huge areas of legally protected habitat. In addition to direct environmental destruction, a new airport would exacerbate climate change, which remains the greatest threat to biodiversity. As well as environmental damage there could be significant risk of bird strike as the Thames Estuary is a hub for thousands of migrant birds.

Even with an aggressive bird hazard management programme, the bird strike hazard would be up to 12 times higher than any other major UK airport.

Q What advice would you give to people who want to take up bird watching or conservation efforts?

A Go out and join an organisation such as the RSPB. Our group offers a programme of illustrated monthly lectures by top wildlife photographers and guided walks every two weeks to local reserves and sites. We also run two coach trips a year to sites further afield. Organisations such as the Kent Wildlife Trust and various other specialist societies cater for bats, mammals, badgers and plants.

Q What can people do in and around their own homes to encourage birdlife and wildlife in general?

A Start by providing the things that birds need such as food, water and safe habitat. A birdbath, a seed feeder and the planting of a few shrubs can all make a difference. If you do start to feed birds then make sure that you continue and feed every day on a regular basis.

Q Any final comments?

A There are many other organisations to which I belong but what I admire about the RSPB is that a large percentage of its income goes directly towards the creation of reserves. To have these protected areas not only helps birds but all wildlife and also creates an environment where people can interact with nature.

Whilst I am a supporter of the RSPB I am not employed by them so the views expressed are purely mine as an individual.

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In an emergency, dial **999**. For the deaf and speech impaired, text 'Police' to **60066**

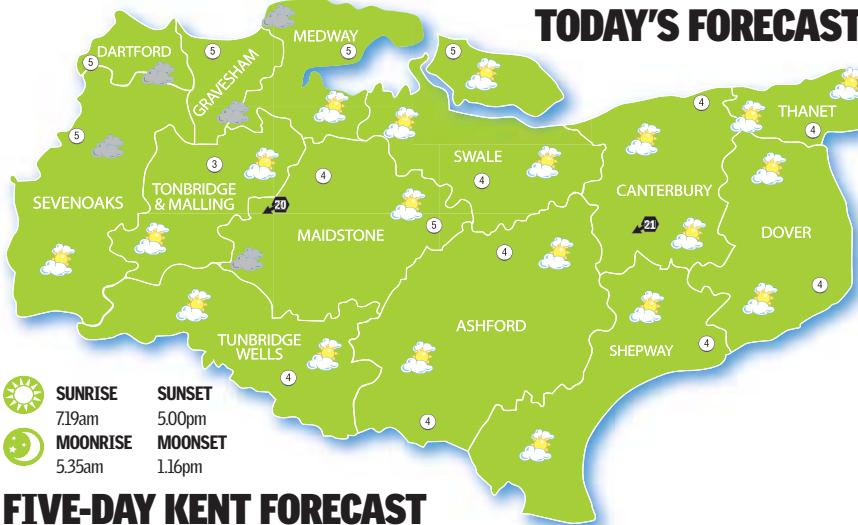
For actions on priorities where you live visit: www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid



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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	5°C	5°C	2°C	3°C	4°C	Gravesend	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C
Canterbury	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	3°C	Maidstone	5°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Chatham	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Ramsgate	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	3°C
Dartford	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Rochester	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Dover	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	3°C	Sevenoaks	4°C	3°C	1°C	2°C	2°C
Faversham	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Sittingbourne	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Folkestone	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	3°C	Tonbridge	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Gillingham	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Tun Wells	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	4°C

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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:42pm	5.7m
	Sunday	1:15pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:55am	6.1m
	Sunday	11:27am	6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:48am	6.9m
	Sunday	11:24am	7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:25am	4.7m
	Sunday	11:57am	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:32pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:05pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:44pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:11pm	5.0m



FIXED: Potholes are being filled in around Medway

Council undertakes to mend a hole load of road repairs

REPAIRS to potholes caused by the big freeze are underway.

Council chiefs are working with contractor Volker Highways and two sub contractors in an attempt to patch up the badly damaged road network.

Inspectors have dealt with more than 250 sites during on-the-spot examinations but face an uphill battle to fix Medway's major and minor roads.

More than 1,500 separate pothole complaints have been logged and prioritised by council chiefs, with the deepest and most hazardous being filled first.

Front line services boss Phil Filmer said: "Due to the large amounts of snow and ice we received, there has been some inevitable damage to the roads.

He added: "I would encourage any members of the public who are concerned about damages to the roads to contact Customer First and report the issue, so we can get these potholes covered as soon as possible."

Call 01634 333333 or email customer.first@medway.gov.uk.



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-4°C	Madrid	9°C
Athens	10°C	New York	-2°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	0°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	27°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	3°C	Tokyo	8°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	20°C	Warsaw	-7°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	16°C



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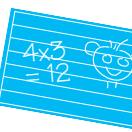
Noddy and Big-Ears will be making a very special visit to Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre on **Friday 19th February 2010**.

They will be appearing at various intervals throughout the day for **FREE** meet and greet sessions.

Hempstead Valley 
www.hempsteadvalley.com

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BREAK TIME
Crocheting her way to a world record

A ROCHESTER student is launching a campaign to create the world's largest crochet blanket.

Jennifer Taylor has initiated the project online to make the biggest granny square blanket and gain a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

The 22-year-old conceived the idea after wanting to start a community crochet group and the idea grew from there.

The University of Creative Arts post graduate said: "The idea for Planet Blanket came while I was making some squares without a real project in mind.

"I was talking with my partner about getting local people involved and I got rather over-excited about it.

"You could say it was a slightly larger approach than just asking the local community, but I am not really one for doing things at a small scale."

A blogsite, which is the online base for the project, was launched at the end of January and has received more than 1,200 hits.

Jennifer added: "I am also in contact with the Guinness World Records to try and create a record for the largest crochet blanket, and also the blanket with the most people working on it.

"The largest blanket created so far was a knitted one which was the size of a tennis court – I am sure we can do better!

"I hope that once the blanket is completed and gained recognition from the Guinness Book of Records, that it can be divided up into smaller blankets for charities."

Jennifer plans to showcase each square she receives online at the Planet Blanket website. For more information visit planetblanket.wordpress.com.

Refugee becomes college's award-winning student

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

MORE than 70 former students received awards at a celebrity-style ceremony last month.

The alumni of MidKent College were treated to a red carpet affair where they enjoyed drinks and canapés.

The prizes were presented to the winners by college governing body chair, Sheila Potipher.

Among those presented with awards was 30-year-old Nassou Kouyate, winner of the Stephen Grix Award for Most Distance Travelled.

Nassou came to the UK from Sierra Leone, where she was trying to escape because of persecution.

Upon arriving in London alone, the refugee was unable to speak any English, yet despite this, she enrolled on two courses.

After finishing both health and social care studies and securing employment in a local care home, the student then moved onto MidKent's college's national diploma in sport and exercise science.

However, the path through college was not a smooth one, especially as Nassou struggled to pay her bills.

At various points, she had to work overnight shifts at the care home whilst studying throughout the day at college, as well as cope with the serious threat of becoming homeless.

Despite this, she maintained incredible commitment to her studies and eventually achieved the highest possible grades for her course – three distinctions.



SUCCESS Award winner Nassou Kouyate (centre) with college sports lecturers Mark Lampard (left) and Kyla Ward (right)

The former MidKent student is now studying for a degree in physiotherapy at university.

Nassou, who now lives on Luton Road said: "I feel very happy."

"I always tried with all my heart at college."

"It wasn't easy and sometimes I needed extra help from my lecturers and personal tutor, but I feel very proud of what I achieved."

"I wasn't expecting this award at all."

"I feel very proud."

The special guest at the event was college Students' Union president Candy Worf.

To each of the winners she said: "I feel very inspired by each and every one of you."

"All of you have demonstrated amazing commitment to learning, completing your 2008/09 studies in the top one per cent of our student body."

"If you continue to apply yourselves in the way you so clearly have, I'm sure you will each have a very successful future."

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Homes should cash in by generating their own electricity

DEMAND for solar panels is set to soar after the Government announced a support scheme allowing householders to make an income from generating their own power, a renewable-energy researcher has predicted, writes **Jenna Pudlek**.

Kent Green Party member Steve Plater said he was planning to install a photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of his Sevenoaks home that will convert solar radiation into enough electricity to meet three-quarters of his needs and save about £500 a year in energy bills.

Energy and climate change secretary Ed Miliband unveiled the new scheme this week; it will see 'feed-in tariffs' (FITs) paid to people, com-

munities and businesses who generate electricity from solar panels, wind turbines or other renewable sources.

PV panels on household roofs will get a higher feed-in tariff and all will be up-rated with inflation each year.

Mr Plater said that after his system was installed he would make about £1,000 a year in payments as a result.

"Anyone who has got money sitting in a building society account would get a much better return by investing it in solar electricity," he said.

The Government said the sector would supply two per cent of the UK's electricity by 2020.

However, the Conservative Party and environmental campaigners

have said the announcement lacks ambition.

Shadow energy and climate change secretary Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said: "FITs are essential to allow decentralised energy to play a major role in our energy mix, but Labour's proposals lack ambition."

"Ministers should have been bolder with this scheme so more jobs could have been created and greater emissions reductions achieved."

Mr Plater, who gives talks about microgeneration of renewable energy across Kent, said: "It is really not ambitious enough – Germany already generates two per cent of its electricity from solar.

"The key point about renewable energy and energy efficiency is they go together and you can deploy them in hundreds of thousands of places very quickly."

"It is much quicker than building huge power stations – nuclear or coal takes years and years and they are not going to help us achieve climate-change targets by 2020."

"And we are the last major country in Europe to bring FITs in. Germany has had one since 2000."

However, Mr Plater thought that FITs would make renewable energy systems such as PV panels more attractive to householders.

"There are other reasons people want it, but clearly money is an

important driver – being able to finance it matters and also feeling independent from energy companies."

"If you can generate three-quarters of electricity from your own roof you largely escape future price rises."

Initial installation costs were high, with panels costing £5,000 per kilowatt of capacity, he said.

People can receive grants from the Energy Saving Trust's low-carbon building scheme, but only until March this year. However, with the feed-in tariff income, and saving on electricity bills, it makes an attractive tax-free return on investment of eight to 10 per cent, which is better than most forms of savings account, the Kent Green Party said.



HEROES: The SSAFA is celebrating its 125th anniversary and wants your help to raise funds for ex-service personnel

125th birthday appeal to help Armed Forces

AN ORGANISATION that helps Armed Forces personnel is 125 years old this year.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) helps those currently in the military and servicemen who have left and are in need.

The Kent branch has unveiled a special campaign – SSAFA 125 – which is being launched with a service of celebration at Westminster Abbey on Thursday, February 18.

Suresh Khanna, the county's director of public affairs for the group, said: "To mark our 125th anniversary we are launching Target 125 and asking everyone to 'Be a Hero' and raise £125 for SSAFA Forces Help in 2010.

Adapted

"Every contribution will help us to meet our pledge to support our troops and their families, now and for the rest of their lives.

"As the number of fatalities and serious injuries sustained in Afghanistan continues to rise, SSAFA's family-support groups are playing a vital role in helping relatives come to terms with loss and life-changing injuries.

"To date, 254 British servicemen and women have lost their lives in Afghanistan and this number increases by the day."

He said almost every parish in Kent had a connection with the Armed Forces so it was important to raise as much money as possible to provide service personnel with assistance.

He said: "Working in extremely dangerous and challenging circumstances, SSAFA Forces Help continues to provide our servicemen and women and their families with the practical support they need.

"Over the course of more than a century SSAFA has adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of our Armed Forces."

The organisation was founded in 1885 to support troops and families of the second

■ BY **STEVE KNIGHT**

expeditionary force to Egypt. One of its current patrons is Prince Michael of Kent.

As well as fatalities, many servicemen and women return home from war zones seriously wounded.

SSAFA's two recently-opened Norton Homes, in Birmingham and Ashstead, Surrey, allow injured troops to spend time with their loved ones away from the hospital environment where they are being treated, giving them the opportunity to do normal family things such as eat a meal together or simply watch a film.

David Culmer, chairman of the south-east London branch, said: "In Bromley and Bexley we are running events throughout the year – look out for our flag day on February 13 in supermarkets, our quiz night for Heroes on May 14, and our band concert in October."

To help, go to www.ssafaf125.org.uk or phone the Kent county secretary on 01580 891507.

- A castle ball is being held at Lympne Castle on Saturday, February 27, to raise money for the Help For Heroes charity.

Party-goers can explore the entire castle and tuck into a curry feast and crêperie. There will also be a live jazz band followed by a disco in the castle's grand ballroom.

Being raffled and auctioned on the night will be a pair of Andy Murray-signed shorts, artwork signed by the Kaiser Chiefs and signed CDs from Tom Jones, Sting and The Stereophonics, plus other celebrity items.

The chair has donated more than £23 million to help servicemen and women since its conception.

Tickets cost £39 and include hot buffet, entertainment and mulled wine on arrival.

Tickets can be bought by phoning 01496 860296.



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yourmedwayblogger

One MP is using the iPhone to stay in touch with his voters, but it won't catch on, says Gary Wright



Why most MPs aren't really ready for the superhighway

FANTASTIC story this week about MP Derek Wyatt who has launched the iPhone* app to let his constituents stay in touch with him.

For those of you unfamiliar with the technological wizardry, it means simply that using your iPhone* (you all have one don't you?) you can contact Sittingbourne's Mr Wyatt and interact anytime.

I admire Mr Wyatt (or 'two pork pies and a Scotch egg' as he's affectionately known after the expenses debacle) for taking up the challenge of bringing new tech to the masses and I honestly wish him well in his quest to engage even more closely with his constituents.

Unfortunately I forecast a rush to the Apple Store by the 10-or-so constituency nutters – that plague every MP – so that they can back up their weekly letters to Mr Wyatt.

Even the biggest Luddite must have heard of the Apple app? If you believe the ads on telly the iPhone* can be made to do anything and

while it might not make the tea, there is probably an app that tells you how to make the perfect cuppa (and probably some information about blending).

But times really are a changin' and our MPs will do anything to get down with the kids and interact. Whether they are Twittering (er, another social network craze for those too lazy to write more than 20 words at a time) to guesting on any TV show which claims viewers under 25.

There is a part of me, a very small part, that believes MPs really do wish to make the world a better place and to give a voice to their constituents no matter how marginalised.

Mr Wyatt (who already runs a good website) said: "I certainly hope that now people know it can be done, and that citizens want to engage in this way, my colleagues at home and abroad take this idea and make it even better for their constituents."

The app was written by public sector digital agency, Public Zone, and is available free of charge from the Apple iTunes store.

Public Zone intends to roll out the MyMP

app, which also integrates with Google Maps, to other MPs this month.

I wish Mr Wyatt well but I foresee a slight problem with his fellow MPs.

Modern technology is pretty damn clever. The iPhone* is a very smart piece of kit. But because of their GPS abilities and the marvel of Google Maps (from satellite pictures right down to a picture of your front garden just from a postcode), the iPhone* can tell you exactly where you are. Oh yes, and it can tell everyone else exactly where you are.

Brilliant for parents who want to watch their kids (but who'd trust them with a 500 quid phone?) but not perhaps for your average MP.

Do they really want people to know exactly where they are every minute of the day?

I suspect not, far too risky... though I guess they could always leave their iPhone* in the House of Commons on answerphone while they slipped off to do other things.

* Other smartphones are cheaper: Google Nexus, Nokia N900, HTC Hero but they haven't the hype (or such a successful App Store).

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on **01303 817185** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words)

and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

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Award Winning Company

Health experts alarmed by huge increase in STIs

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A SEXUAL health pandemic is spreading across Medway – with the number of cases of chlamydia, herpes and genital warts more than doubling in the past two years.

Hospital bosses have released new figures that show a huge rise in sexual transmitted infections from 2006 to 2008.

The number of cases of chlamydia in patients aged between 16 and 24 shot up from 228 to 361 – an increase of 69 per cent.

Genital warts went up from 204 cases to 293 – a rise of 60 per cent and herpes leapt from 62 to 86 during the same period.

The 16-24 age bracket is not the only at-risk group, with figures showing an 83 per cent rise in the number of 45 to 70-year-olds who have been diagnosed with chlamydia between 2006 and 2008.

Medway Maritime Hospital's GUM clinic consultant Dr Chula Wijesurendra said: "We've seen a marked increase in the number of people from the Medway and Swale areas being diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections. Last year alone there were more than 10,000 attendances at our department.

"While it is good news that people are getting checked and treated, it is a little alarming as it means there are still many people



CHECK-UP: Medway's GUM department offers a walk-in service for anyone concerned about their sexual health

taking risks with their sexual health.

"Be safe. This means using contraception when having sex such as a condom or barrier protection, but also getting yourself tested if you have put yourself at risk.

"This prevents infections from being inadvertently passed on to another partner and can prevent any future complications. Left untreated, chlamydia can cause infertility.

"Here at Medway we offer a walk-in service so that we can see and treat as many people

as possible – you do not need a referral from your doctor.

"I urge anyone who has any concerns about their sexual health, no matter how small, to come in and discuss them with us."

The service is available between 9am and 4pm at Medway Maritime Hospital's Genito Urinary Medicine department, level three, green zone.

To find out more about Medway NHS Foundation Trust, visit www.medway.nhs.uk.

Anger as father finds blade in new baby shoe

AN OUTRAGED father has hit out at budget clothes store Primark after pulling a razor-sharp knife blade out of a new pair of baby shoes.

Steven Varley came across the blade while removing paper packaging from the tiny toddler shoes, bought for his four-day-old son, Oscar.

The relieved father, who picked up the boots from the Chatham High Street Primark store, said he was stunned to find the knife but glad that the blunder did not affect his son.

He told the BBC: "I took the piece of paper out of the first one, and it came out easily.

"The second bit wouldn't come out, so I had to stick my finger in. I did so and felt a sharp pain. I thought it was a lace."

Horrendous

"I pulled on the piece of paper and inside the shoe was this razor-sharp blade. It's horrendous."

A Primark spokesman said: "Primark is extremely concerned to hear about this and is taking urgent action to investigate.

"The company cannot comment in detail on this complaint until its inquiries are complete, but the apologies to the customer for any distress.

"Primark will keep the customer informed about the progress and outcome of its inquiries."

The budget retailer is planning to open a new outlet in Folkestone in place of the BHS in Bouverie Place, which is closing ten of its stores nationwide.

“I found my way walking up a hill.”



Carol in Gillingham

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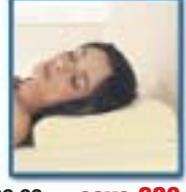
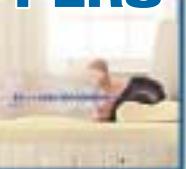
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These Snugfit mattress toppers from Slumberdown will transform your sleeping surface, helping you to achieve a sound and healthy night's sleep.

Each topper is made from visco-elastic memory foam, which was originally developed for NASA to provide comfort for astronauts during space flights. This revolutionary foam is weight and temperature sensitive, continuously moulding to your body shape and position in bed, so your weight is distributed and supported evenly. It also helps avoid pressure points, and keeps your spine properly aligned.

Available in standard bed sizes, the 2in (50mm) thick topper simply sits on top of your existing mattress. It comes complete with a machine washable terry toweling zipped cover. The matching Slumberdown Snugfit memory foam pillow is specially contoured to cradle your head at the correct height and alignment.

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WIN! tickets to see Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief, plus goodies

IT'S the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus and assorted monsters have walked out of the pages of high school student Percy Jackson's Greek mythology texts and into his life.

And they're not happy: Zeus' lightning bolt has been stolen and Percy is the prime suspect. Even more troubling is the sudden disappearance of Percy's mother. As Percy adapts to his newly discovered status as a demi-god (his father is Poseidon), he finds himself caught between the battling titans of Mt Olympus. He and his friends embark on a cross-country adventure to catch the true lightning thief, save Percy's mom and unravel a mystery more powerful than the gods themselves.

Your Midweek newspaper series has FIVE pairs of luxury seat tickets to see Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief – showing at cinemas from February 12 – courtesy of VUE cinema in Thanet plus FIVE packs of goodies up for grabs.



To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to

VUE Cinema Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 15, 2010. Question: From what date is Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief showing in cinemas?

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yourletters

TALK TIME

MARK PHOENIX

Mark Phoenix is a member of the Medway Lines historical society

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm 36 years old. I live in Gillingham and have been interested in local history for as long as I can remember.

What is Medway Lines?

It's a history website I started about three years ago when I became interested in exploring underground structures and forts in Kent. I wanted to write about these places and the Great Lines of Defence fortifications.

What attracted you to the history of Medway and Kent?

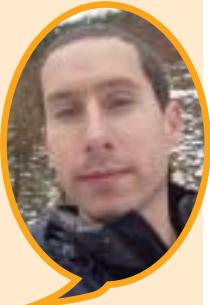
There's so much of it, from ancient history sites to Cold War sites. One of my earliest school memories was learning about the unfinished Jezreel's Tower in Gillingham. Also Kent's military connections interest me, with it being the closest county to the continent, and the importance of Chatham Dockyard.

Who or what has been the biggest influence on you?

Fort Amherst has always fascinated me. I used to play in there as a kid and it had an effect on me as a mysterious and exciting place, what with the tunnels, cannons, Napoleonic architecture and all the history associated with the fort. I'm now a part-time volunteer there.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I play video games, I like to explore tunnels, castles, forts and churches in Kent, and I'm also a moderator on the Kent History Forum at www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk.



YOUR LETTERS



Prostitution will be driven underground

I don't think naming and shaming kerb-crawlers will put an end to prostitution, it will only force it out of the public eye.

If the men who go out looking to pick up a prostitute fear they will be arrested and have their mugshot plastered all over the towns, they will simply go to a brothel instead.

This only serves to drive the issue further underground.

I admire the police for attempting to solve the problem, I just don't think it will work unless the brothels are shut down at the same time.

More money and resources need to be made available to get the women selling their bodies off the streets.

Anthony Cook, Chatham, by email

Take a leap of faith for Cancer research

I am calling on all readers to take up a challenge by signing up to our skydive campaign.



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmedway.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

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We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmedway before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmedway.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

A sponsored skydive is a great way to raise money for charity. Anyone who raises £395 or more for us at World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) will also be able to skydive for free.

Any money raised from a

sponsored skydive will help us to continue to fund our research and education programmes on the link between lifestyle and cancer. If you want to find out more about how to take part in a sponsored skydive, visit

www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising or call 0207 343 4200 for more information.

Natalie Tarrant, events manager, World Cancer Research Fund, by email

Has Chambers missed the bus?

Medway Council has approved a new bus station in Chatham. I can only think of this as going back in time to the 1960s.

Our bus services were basically funnelled through Military Road at that time, more regularly and with more routes covered.

Now we have progressed to the 21st Century, but with very little improvement, if any, to our expensive and limited transport system.

However, we are now going to inherit another outside bus station, with futuristic shelters, but little cover from the elements at all. What improvement is that, particularly if our winters were to become more extreme like the one just gone?

Not exactly helpful to the older and disabled generation to get to the Pentagon either.

Yet Cllr Rodney Chambers stated: 'Chatham is getting one of the best bus stations in Britain'.

Are we looking at the same picture? Or is Rodney Chambers using rose-tinted glasses? And they are going to destroying green spaces and trees, for this!

We did have an inside bus station in the Pentagon, leading straight into the shopping centre. In need of brightening up maybe, but quite a boon for all, including the ageing population and the disabled.

All this does not make sense, unless there are other

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motivations we are not being told about at this moment in time.

Len Knight, Rainham, by email

Feed-in tariffs will save money and benefit us all

Kent Green Party welcomes feed-in tariffs for small-scale renewable energy, announced by the Government on Monday, February 1.

The Green Party has long campaigned for a feed-in tariff, which has been used successfully in other countries to boost microgeneration of renewable energy.

The new UK feed-in tariff provides a long-term guaranteed price for all electricity that is generated, even if the electricity is used by the householder. An extra tariff is paid for electricity fed into the grid.

The feed-in tariff income and saving on electricity purchased yields an attractive tax-free return on investment of about eight to ten per cent, better than most forms of savings account.

This paves the way for photovoltaic systems to be installed. I had my system installed on Friday, January 29.

The panels have already generated 20 units of electricity, even in the weak January sunshine. The system will generate 60 per cent of the electricity we use. The feed-in tariff will provide an income of about £1,000 a year and reduce our electricity bill by a further £17. The whole system was installed and commissioned in a couple of days.

Green Party policy is to create a million new jobs in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and public transport. Installing PV systems, for example, creates jobs for roofers, scaffolders, electricians and project managers.

Tim Valentine, Green Party candidate for Faversham and Mid Kent, by email

Experts go online for meningitis debate

If any of your readers have questions or concerns about meningitis, we would urge them to take part in Meningitis UK's latest initiative called Ask the Expert.

It's a unique opportunity which gives members of the public direct access to medical professionals at the forefront of treating and fighting the disease.

Until Friday, February 19, you can go to our website at www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert and pose any question on the subject of preventing meningitis.

Leading professors have been lined up to respond to the questions, and answers will go live on the site on February 25.

We hope the initiative will help improve people's knowledge and awareness of meningitis during a time when cases peak and people need to be extra vigilant.

To take part in the Ask the Expert session, visit www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert.

Kate Rowland, Meningitis UK

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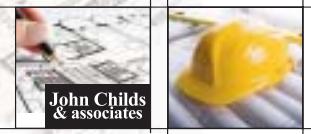
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Take a trip to Toytown

Noddy and Big Ears are joined by all their friends for a big party, but naughty Sly and Gobbo have other plans

NODDY

Various dates
Various venues



It is the start of an exciting day in Toy Town because there is a special event lined up for the residents. Noddy and Tessie Bear are planning a sing-along, dance-along party.

The only people who are not welcome are the two naughty goblins, Sly and Gobbo, who cannot be trusted to behave well and not try to spoil everyone's enjoyment.

Armed with the Sound Sucker, another bizarre machine from Goblin Gizmos, the naughty pair set out to ruin the party. But their wicked plans could yet be thwarted by Noddy, who is determined to keep an eye on the goblins and make sure the day is not spoiled.

With lots of songs and dances for the audience to join in, this is a fun-packed production for children of all ages. The tour also coincides with the 60th anniversary of Enid Blyton's enduringly popular creation.

Big Ears. Together they invite all the children to take part in a fun-filled adventure that provides a great introduction to live theatre.

Noddy made his first appearance in 1949 and became an icon of children's literature, providing the perfect way for youngsters to discover Blyton's writing. During the 20-year period between his creation and Blyton's death, 154 books featuring Noddy were produced and there was a wealth of Noddy merchandise for fans to buy, from Noddy toothbrushes and soap to nightdresses and bedside lights.

The Noddy Live show can be seen at the Central Theatre, Chatham on Sunday, February 21; the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on Monday, April 12 and the Woodville Halls, Gravesend on Thursday, June 3.

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YEAR OF THE TIGER
Saturday, February 13 and Sunday,
February 14
Chatham Town Centre

ENJOY a taste of the Orient this weekend when Medway welcomes the Year of the Tiger.

The fun starts at 11.30am on Saturday when colourful street stalls open at the corner of Military Road and High Street selling Chinese gifts and decorations. Enjoy exotic entertainment from the Medway Lion Dance Team, along with performances of traditional Chinese folk dances by young students from Dance Alley.

Using clever artistry, the face painters will transform spectators into fearsome tigers and there will be opportunities to admire the martial arts of the East with demonstrations of Tai Chi by Shi Kon Martial Arts and Kung Fu Kids.

On Sunday the vibrant



Chinese New Year Parade will set out in Military Road at noon and make its way along Chatham High Street, led by Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Royle. Various dance teams will take part in a Chinese New Year show at

the Corn Exchange in Rochester at 2.30pm, which includes colourful costumes and Chinese folk songs. Tickets cost £7.50/£5.50, to book call Medway Visitor Information Centre on 01634 843666.

COUNT ARTHUR

STRONG 

Saturday, February 13
Brook Theatre, Chatham

ENTER the wonderful world of rambling raconteur Count Arthur Strong as he tells stories from his days on the stage.

The one-time variety star is keen to entertain his audience with anecdotes about his long career in show business, the only hindrance being his forgetfulness and short attention span. However, the Count has rubbed shoulders with some big stars and has plenty of fascinating stories to tell, just as long as he can get through them from start to finish.

Created by comedian Steve Delaney, the Count is a deluded Yorkshireman who believes himself to be a show business legend. The character has appeared on Mark



Radcliffe's Radio 2 show and landed his own series on Radio 4 in 2005, going on to win a Sony Gold Award for Best Radio Comedy last year. His live shows play to packed theatres all over the country and Medway comedy fans are invited to find out

why the Count is such a comic treat.

The show, which is strictly for over-18s only, starts at 8pm and tickets cost £13/£12. Book online at www.thebrooktheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01634 338338.

CHINESE STATE CIRCUS - MULAN

Thursday, February 11 to Sunday, February 14
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

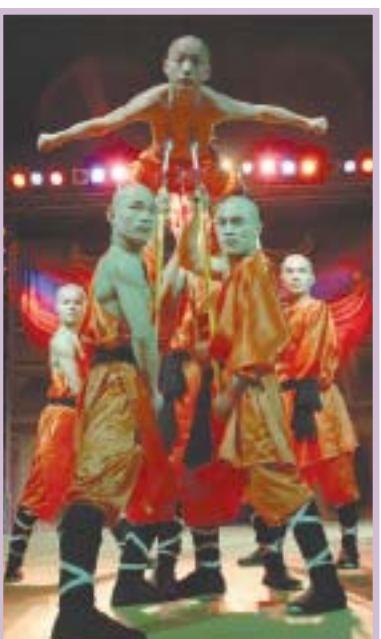
THE story of a national heroine is told in the latest spectacular production from the Chinese State Circus.

Over the generations, the tale of Mulan has been represented many times in literature, music and film, but this is the first time that her story has inspired an international circus show. The peasant girl who led an army to save her country from invasion makes a fitting focus for this breathtaking, all-action show that will have audiences on the edge of their seats.

Playing the role of Mulan is martial arts expert Cao Jing, who makes her first appearance in the UK. The Shaolin Wushu Warriors present a display of astonishing physical achievement, while the rest of the remarkable performers demonstrate their incredible skill in the realms of hand-balancing, hoop diving, acrobatics and physical theatre.

This highly colourful and dramatic show, choreographed to an original score, is sure to captivate audiences of all ages.

Tickets are priced from £12 to £27. To book call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



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MEDWAY LEISURE

Club plays host to live jazz swing combo

SPECIAL guest Bob Pluck will join the Donn Barratt Band for an evening of live jazz swing on Thursday.

The guitar and banjo player performs with the band at the Four-Four-Two Club on the corner of Featherby Road and the A2 in Gillingham. The music starts at 8.30pm and admission costs £6 including snacks. For more information call 01634 405037.

Rising star brings his unplugged tour to pub

DISCOVER the sound of rising artist Dan Clews when he visits Gillingham as part of a limited acoustic tour.

Clews has played support slots for the likes of Bloc Party, Jeffery Lewis and Air Traffic and has attracted praise from Mojo and Uncut magazines.

Clews will be at The Barge at 8.30pm on Wednesday, February 17. Find out more at www.myspace.com/danclews.

Ancient wisdom at the centre of Brecht play

A TUG of love between two women is decided by a controversial judge in The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

Medway Little Theatre in Rochester presents a Youth Company production of Bertolt Brecht's compelling play.

The play runs from Thursday to Saturday. To book call the box office on 01634 400322 or go online at www.mlt.org.uk.

Follow the nature trail for country park prize

YOUNG visitors are invited to take part in an activity trail at Shorne Woods Country Park this half term.

The park in Shorne, Gravesend, is offering the trail from Saturday to next Sunday. Children must be accompanied by an adult and should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. The event runs from 10am to 3pm daily and costs £2.50. Call 01474 823800 to reserve your place.

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yourmedwaymusic

Hip hop title up for grabs, and ShyChlo is in running



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

WHEN grime star Lady Sovereign entered the Big Brother house last month she left her 'queen of UK hip hop' title and arguably her credibility at the door.

Pretenders to the throne are now intent on climbing the charts and claiming her crown.

One such would-be queen is Canterbury MC/producer ShyChlo.

The 22-year-old has drawn the interest of a number of industry movers and shakers since bursting on to the live scene in 2008 and looks certain to draw more attention with the release of her debut single Mental Confusion later this year.

ShyChlo said her success was down to her lyrics, which go beyond the tired hip hop subjects of guns and violence.

"I just write and say what I feel, going beyond the glitz and glamour of the stereotypical 'rags to riches' hip hop, and focusing on issues like the struggles and peer pressures of today's youth – politics, religion and personal insecurities."

ShyChlo is something of a genre merger, drawing influences from UK hip hop, rock, punk and funk.

It's this fusion that saw new independent record label Flickfinger Records sign the young artist up.

Co-founder Kieron Corcoran said: "ShyChlo has a very clever mix of UK hip hop, rock and other musical styles.

"Her sound isn't affected by the US hip hop scene and so it's unique."



LINE-UP: MC Devlin, above, and rapper XO Man, right, will be supporting ShyChlo, left, at the Hazlitt Theatre this weekend



"She's got a lot of great feedback through the Myspace page and the fanbase is growing really quickly."

ShyChlo will perform at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, this Friday, backed by her four-piece band.

Support on the night comes from Hugo Urban Rules winning rapper XO Man and Dagenham-born grime MC Devlin.

For more information visit www.myspace.com/shychlomusic

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Heartthrobs McFly perform in Rochester.



Sons of Alpha Centauri star in The Ether



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Gristlebridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 2 Craig Sheridan- Times Change (from Deal)
- 3 Shelta - We Can Make It Happen (from Bexley)
- 4 Directions - Equality Street (from Maidstone)
- 5 The Semantics - Soho Nympho (from Gillingham)

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WOMEN seeking men

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **T**

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5ft10+, long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558 **T**

LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE! 25y old female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **T P**

NOT YOUR BROWNEYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed blonde, 27, 5ft1, loves walks, walking, darts, pool, singing, male 31+ looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **T P**

SOULD GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, yogh, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 **T**

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 **T**

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 448435 **T**

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 52", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **T**

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **T**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 54", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, facile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 380734 **T P**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **T**

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wiring and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **T**

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring, I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 861014 **T**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **T**

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, sees kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 4440693 **T**

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **T**

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, from most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **T**

FAMILY ORIENTED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, medium build, I'm a single mum! and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **T**

African DIAMOND 38y old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companion-ship and more. Box 446676 **T**

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **T**

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashton. Box 460668 **T**

WANNA RIDE WITH YOU Curvaceous lady, 40, 5ft8, long curly hair, into motorbikes! Single mum, seeks fun-loving bike fan for rides into the sunset. Eastbourne. Box 458787 **T**

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blonde lady, 54", 5ft4, enjoys the seaside and horse-riding, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 **T**

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449242 **T**

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady (51), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 448288 **T**

MAKING HIGH 6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446102 **T**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 **T**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 449194 **T**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, blonde, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **T**

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46y old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Box 461938 **T**

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde/brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464921 **T**

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 **T P**

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53y old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 **T**

TAKE IT EASY Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973 **T**

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury Box 460999 **T**

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866330 **T P**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS? Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and love music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **T P**

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and WLTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481 **T**

TLK ON OFFER Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41y old female, enjoys life to the full, like walking, walking, watching DVDs, WLTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271 **T**

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 53", gosh, like family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **T**

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 **T**

LOVE IS ALL AROUND Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outtings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517 **T**

CUTE AS CAN BE Single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, from most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **T**

FAMILY ORIENTED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, medium build, I'm a single mum! and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **T**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal male 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaforth. Box 450386 **T**

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves, likes socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 444585 **T**

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **T**

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking, I'm, 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 **T**

STAY TRUE Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, 55", loyal, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 451830 **T**

WHAT DO YOU DO? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, 55", loyal, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 451912 **T**

ALWAYS LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE Intelligent woman of 56, gosh. Loves London, plays/shows, cinema, walking, the sea, travel, seeking a Kentish male companion of similar age to share these. Maidstone. Box 460816 **T**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 55, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **T**

SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 **T**

DOG LOVER? Lovely lady of 58, 5ft7, medium build, blonde hair, a hairdresser, likes art galleries, theatre, cinema and painting, seeks male to enjoy this and more. Box 457241 **T**

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **T**

MAKING A NEW FRIEND Fun-loving lady, 58, 5ft4, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420 **T**

MEN seeking women OUT AND ABOUT Bubbly male, 33 looking for a fun lady to go out with, like clubs, meals out, the usual things. Gillingham. Box 465643 **T**

SIT Genuine male, I enjoy football, golf, cosy nights, I'm 32, 6ft1, medium build, tall dark hair, glasses, WLTM woman, 28-34 with a great personality. Box 884207 **T**

LOVE ME TENDER Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446220 **T**

GAME ON Male, 44, 6ft tall, fairly sporty, romantic nature, likes the countryside, coast, going out; seeks outgoing confident female for friendship/relationship. Medway/Kent. Box 470899 **T**

2 SEATS PLEASE Richard here I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants? You? Box 895273 **T**

TO THE FUTURE! Well-built male, 44, looking for a female for friendship and fun, let's start the summer not being single and with a smile! Box 883622 **T**

HAND IN HAND Easygoing man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Folkestone. Box 861243 **T**

FEELS LIKE HOME Self employed professional male, 54, 5ft6, divorced, seeks female for friendship+. Box 180307 **T**

A CLASSIC CASE Respectable gentleman, 57, 5ft11, medium build, no beer belly, clean shaven! Likes classic cars, meals out, walks, WLTM nice lady to share them with. Box 446569 **T**

LOOKING FOR MY LADY Active guy, young 47, professional, likes the countryside and photography, loves travelling, hoping to meet a mature warm hearted lady for life-long romance. Sittingbourne. Box 860916 **T**

LOVE & CARE Genuine male (62) seeks genuine, attractive lady for long times together, tactile person would be very suitable, someone loving caring. Box 465438 **T**

TAKE MY HAND Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-36, 50+, Kent. Box 460441 **T**

GET HAPPY Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461423 **T**

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a down to earth green eyed lady. I have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862026 **T**

WALK ALONG THE COAST Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a loving and caring female for friendship. Box 858113 **T**

SIMPLY PLEASURES Fit, active, 40, 5ft6, slim, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865769 **T**

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red/green hair, eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 **T**

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 51, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each other's lives. Box 460214 **T**

RECIPES FOR ROMANCE Seeking lovely black lady to share interests with. I'm 38, 5ft5, medium build, brown eyes, likes swimming, holidays, travel, seeking friend. Box 384903 **T**

LOVE & CARE Happy-go-lucky male, 35, 5ft2, GSOH, large build, blue eyes/brown hair, likes socialising, relaxing weekends, loves children; seeks caring, honest female for TLC and more. Box 384903 **T**

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a down to earth green eyed lady. I have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862026 **T**

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a loving and caring female for friendship. Box 858113 **T**

SHY AT FIRST Caring loving and genuine guy, hard working and shy at times. I'm 40, slim build, 5ft10, blue eyes, short hair. Seeking genuine lady in Kent. Box 465520 **T**

QUIET TYPE Down-to-earth, fun-loving gent, 49, 5ft6, slim build, dark hair. I have GSOH and enjoy the simple things in life; pubs, music, country walks etc. Maidstone. Box 465644 **T**

DON'T HESITATE! Seeking down-to-earth guy for fun and friendship. I'm a 42y old guy living in Sheerness. Box 459219 **T**

SUNNY SIDE UP Professional male with GSOH, 45, 6ft, medium build with short dark hair, looking for similar professional to enjoy life and settle down with. Brighton. Box 462166 **T**

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR! Youthful dad, 45, 5ft10", brown hair, medium build, divorced, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, WLTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529 **T**

INTELLIGENT FUN Caring blonde, 50, 5ft1", brown eyes, divorced, 3 kids, though none live with me, 6ft-tall, blonde hair, and good for a laugh. Box 931168 **T**

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450517 **T**

PUT THAT SPARK BACK IN MY LIFE Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches. WLTM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446212 **T**

HE'S MY FINE! Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches. WLTM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446212 **T**

BE THERE NOW Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things. WLTM female to settle down with and find love. Box 443410 **T**

GIRL TO GIRL Looking for a female to have some fun with! I'm a 47y old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, GSOH and I'm friendly. Margate. Box 859781 **T**

LET'S FIND OUT! Hi, I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5ft5, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent. Box 877446 **T**

TRUE ROMANCE Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy, 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman. I like nights out, Whitestable. Box 464494 **T**

GET IT CHATTING! Hi, I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5ft5, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent. Box 877446 **T**

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Square catwalk will put a spring in your step

IDEAS for a spring makeover can be found at County Square Shopping Centre in Ashford this weekend.

On Saturday there will be four funky shows taking place on the catwalk in the main mall, outside Costa Coffee, in which the latest looks for women, men and children will be displayed.

The shows start at 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm. For more information visit www.countysquareshopping-centre.com.

What a sparkling treat for February 14th

ANYONE who has left buying their Valentine gift until the last minute could find help at Magnolia Jewellery in Tunbridge Wells.

The shop in Royal Victoria Place offers an Express Gift Service and their Style Experts will make sure you leave with exactly the right present for your partner, beautifully wrapped within five minutes.

Magnolia has unveiled its special Heart Collection just for Valentine's Day. Find out more at the shop or call 01892 546103.

Desserts will put loved ones on cloud nine

SAY it with meringues this Valentine's Day by treating your object of desire to a mouth-watering dessert.

Faversham-based Head in the Clouds has created delicious and inexpensive treats. Head in the Clouds products are available from Fenwicks of Canterbury, Howfield Manor at Chatham Hatch and Taywell Tunbridge Wells, also online at www.headintheclouds.uk.com. The shop at Whitstable Harbour Village will re-open on March 20.

Support breast cancer with these gift ideas

YOUR Valentine will be tickled pink with a Breast Cancer Campaign Wrappz gadget cover.

The adhesive covers are now available with the campaign's pink ribbon design, the perfect way to show support for the charity while having a pretty adornment on your iPhone, iPod, mobile or laptop.

The Wrappz cost £4.99 and £2.60 goes straight to the charity. Buy Breast Cancer Campaign Wrappz at www.wrappz.com or www.breastcancercampaign.org.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Disney breaks with tradition and casts its first ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale.

EDGE OF DARKNESS (15)



Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone star in this dark thriller, adapted from a 1985 BBC mini-series. Gibson plays a veteran detective forced to investigate the murder of his daughter after she's killed in front of him.

SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

Two for price of one as Cera tackles double role

■ BY KATE WHITING

YOUTH In Revolt stars one of Hollywood's up-and-coming stars in Michael Cera, who's made his name through a string of geeky roles in Juno, Superbad and last year's Nick And Norah's Infinite Playlist.

At 21, Cera is no newcomer to the big screen – he's been acting since he was nine – but it was his role as High School student father Paulie Bleeker in Juno that made critics take notice. He was even nominated last year for the Bafta Orange Rising Star Award.

In Youth In Revolt, he plays strait-laced teen Nick Twisp, who has a taste for the finer things in life like Sinatra and Fellini.

On a family holiday, he falls for free-spirited Sheeni who eggs him on to create a rebellious French alter ego: Francois. Sporting a moustache and smoking, Francois takes Nick in an outrageous new direction, as he tries to win Sheeni's love.

Canadian Cera had long been a fan of author C.D. Payne, who wrote the book Youth In Revolt: The Journals Of Nick Twisp, on which the film is based, and was signed up to the project before Juno and Superbad even hit our screens.

"The book is really funny. It's got a really unique voice and it's gigantic, it takes months to read if you're a slow reader. I was around the age of Nick when I read it and I completely related to it," says Cera, with a half-smile.

"I related to the agony of not knowing what's going on and being obsessed with a girl and not having any control, which Payne wrote really perfectly."



ALTER EGO: Michael Cera as French Francois

When Nick meets Sheeni, he's feeling completely disillusioned about his mundane existence. Cera explains: "Nick doesn't have a great home life. His parents are divorced, his mother has an idiot boyfriend and his life is stagnant. He meets this girl who blows his mind and he feels he has to hang on to her."

Cera reportedly split from his actress girlfriend Charlyne Yi last summer after they co-

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starred in indie project Paper Heart. He says he can relate to the 'torment' Nick suffers through his love for the mysterious Sheeni.

"You never know what she feels about you or what she's really thinking. She's such a puzzle. That's really what I loved about the character. She's so well-depicted in the book."

Despite having to play two very different characters in the same film, Cera insists he didn't find this difficult. In fact, he loved the opportunity to play a naughty version of Nick.

"It was just a lot of fun to play. I wouldn't say it was hard, except for the technical tricks of it. I can't think of any challenges, except for trying to figure out how to play Francois initially, and what the voice was going to be like."

YOUTH IN REVOLT
Certificate 15

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

COMING OF AGE

BBC Three, 10.30pm, Tuesday

If ever there was a TV show from which not to take a comedic lead, then it's the never-not-appalling mess that is Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps.

Despite being one of the least funny sit-coms ever made it has now run for eight series, proving that someone out there must be watching it.

I didn't think it was possible for a show to be less funny or more moronic until I saw Coming Of Age, the latest BBC Three laugh-free zone, which is undeniably influenced by its bigger brother.

Here we meet our five main characters – three lads and two girls who attend the local sixth-form college.

They dress like they've been sponsored by Topshop and talk as if they have been locked in a room listening to Fearne Cotton since the day they were born.

They think of little else but who's going out with whom, when they are next getting drunk, and, erm... no, actually, that's it.

One recent episode had one of the female leads, a frizzy-haired girl whose name I have blocked out through trauma, boasting of relieving herself in a pub car park because the toilets were locked or blocked.

The pub, by the way, was called The Beaver (geddit?!).

I hate this show – it makes me wonder why I am alive.

It is a terrible waste of time and may well have been written by 12-year-olds on their school lunch break between games of Pokemon and mouthfuls of cheese strings.

Yet, as much as I hate it, strangely I find myself drawn in.

I wonder if one day it will ever



NO LAUGHING MATTER: Joe Tracini plays DK in BBC Three's so-called sit-com Coming of Age

make me laugh, or if I'll ever see the point, or if a plotline will involve any kind of imagination other than the bleedin' obvious.

Three of the characters are just plain annoying, but they seem like two of the screen's great creations when compared with one of the others.

Darren, or DK, is an imbecile of the very highest order.

He's the kind of tracksuited village idiot who goes into a trance when somebody mentions 'boobs' or 'bum' and is what makes the whole sorry affair plunge through the bottom of the barrel and start tunnelling for Australia with a JCB.

I read that the first series of this abomination is available on DVD.

I'm planning to buy a copy and blow it up with TNT.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'LL get a divine opportunity to put your expertise to work this week. If you play your cards right you could become a renowned expert in your field. You have to admit that it will be lovely having your pick of job offers. A best friend or colleague may be jealous of your success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

MONEY could be tight this week, which is really frustrating. You may not be able to afford all the things you have planned. Don't make lame excuses; be truthful. Friends won't judge you, but they will offer help, both emotional and financial. Accept the former and refuse the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

PAYING off a debt gives you a feeling of pride. It also helps you to spend more time on the activities you love. In the past you may have had to work a couple of jobs to make ends meet. Now that your financial obligations have been fulfilled you can go back something you enjoy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

AN ability to put your creative talent to practical use helps you to travel or study for very little money. Refrain from telling an authority figure what you really think of their methods. Yes, this person is really full of themselves, but they do have the power to hire or fire you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

PROVIDING stability for your loved ones is a noble endeavour. As a child, you may have been subject to an adult's wayward ways. Not knowing what was going to happen caused you a great deal of anxiety. Now you have an opportunity to create a nurturing environment for your family.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

ALL your hard work is starting to pay off. Although you may not have followed the most secure route to success, you didn't let that stop you from pursuing your dream. However, now that you've achieved some success, a one-time friend has become jealous.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

TAKING a class will put you in contact with influential people. If you long to switch industries, you need to surround yourself with those who can further your interests. An egotistical teacher could rub you the wrong way. Fortunately, you don't have to study with this blowhard.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

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Tenerife is your paradise found

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

TENERIFE is known as a tourist hot spot sullied by over-development and bad behaviour by visitors.

The island, however, wants a new reputation to lure discerning travellers to its sun-kissed shores.

The largest of the Canary Islands off the coast of north-west Africa, this Spanish isle has a temperate climate year round, rivalling destinations like Dubai and The Gambia for weather, with shorter flights from Britain.

A smattering of exclusive hotels is emerging on the west coast, far from the all-night partying of Playa de las Americas and neighbouring Los Cristianos, where apartments go so far inland they swamp the surrounding hills.

Away from all that is the five-star Sensatori Resort on the outskirts of the village of Alcala, further up the coast, around 10 minutes' drive from the dramatic cliffs of Los Gigantes in the west.

It's here that I discovered a true taste of paradise, taking in the stunning 260m infinity pool, the largest in Europe, the shimmering Atlantic and the neighbouring island of La Gomera.

At Sensatori, the stunning rooms, marble flooring, sparkling chandeliers, fountains, designer decor and dramatic sculptures can take your breath away.

Bag a villa in its Red Level area and you get a butler and private pool within your tropical garden, and an outdoor double bed under a thatched canopy.

At the Sensatori's Michelin-starred Calima restaurant, where chef Dani Garcia is a bit of a celebrity, our 12-course taster menu began with delicious dry-ice cocktails and included delicacies such as foie gras, oysters and truffle cake, accompanied by fine wines, some produced locally.

But it's not only the hotels that are falling over backwards to spruce up this island.

Last year, Siam Park, a water park, opened in the south, boasting the biggest artificial waves in the world at nearly 10ft high. Its surrounding beach is created with tons of silky white sand imported from Portugal.

We hired a private cabana within the park, with its own balcony overlooking the wave pool, to allow us the luxury of a safe TV, DVD and Wi-Fi connection, plus mini-bar, comfortable loungers and an outside shower. If you want a similar package for four, including entrance, fast-track queuing and limited all-inclusive deal in restaurants and bars, it costs a cool 400 euros (£360).

Ecological measures are also being stepped up to save what is left of Tenerife's natural beauty.

Nearly a decade ago, virtually anyone could – and did – take a boat from Los Cristianos to watch whales and dolphins. Many



LAP OF LUXURY: Enjoy some sun-kissed serenity at the Sensatori Resort near Alcala

beautiful creatures were surrounded by boats, with tourists happily snapping away.

Under new rules, boats must be licensed and are carefully monitored to stop whales and dolphins from becoming distressed. The marine guide on our charter said that this had driven away unscrupulous operators and

improved the whales' breeding cycles.

Tenerife is still home to all-night party-goers, English pubs and bacon-and-eggs breakfasts after a heavy night.

But if all you want is peace, quiet and serenity in the ultimate tropical setting all year, it may be closer than you ever imagined.

FACT FILE: TENERIFE

Time difference	0 hours (GMT)
Language	Spanish
Capital	Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Population	900,000
Currency	Euro
Religion	Catholic

Travel Facts

Hannah Stephenson was a guest of Thomson Holidays, which offers seven nights' full board at five-star Sensatori Tenerife in 2010 from £758 per adult (two sharing), including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers and fuel supplement.

Thomson also goes to Tenerife via Luton, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle and Bristol.

Thomson reservations: 0871 236 5596 and www.thomson.co.uk.

Freebird One organises tailor-made private charters to watch whales and dolphins. See www.freebirdone.com for more details.



MAKING WAVES: Relax at the resort's pool

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Further features include Lumibrite hands and markers, which appear illuminated at night, clear hour, minute and second hands, numeric markers, and a magnified date window. It is also water resistant to 100m. The Pulsar Kinetic watch has classic military styling, which is set off by a brushed stainless steel case, an understated black dial, and a black padded leather strap with contrasting stitching. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer for two years.



Item Code 4002

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PROPERTY NEWS



SUCCESS: Hillreed has sold nearly all its properties

Off-plan property sales are through the roof

THERE is nothing a builder likes more than to sell a home before it's actually built, and that's exactly what Hillreed is currently enjoying at Greenway, Kings Hill, near Maidstone.

Dean Markall, sales and marketing director at Hillreed, said: "Such is the desire to purchase property, most of the homes in our 'Farmyard' complex at Greenway, are reserved or sold and that is before we have even got the roofs on."

"Buying off plan enables astute buyers to hold the prices at 2009 levels which make financial sense."

"The building societies are still reporting house prices rising month on month, albeit slowly over November, but nevertheless they are on an upward trajectory. We anticipate a healthy market in 2010 which is great news for those who have already invested in bricks and mortar."

Kent to get extra help to prevent repossessions

A KENT MP has welcomed news of extra government help for those facing repossession.

South Thanet Labour member Dr Steve Ladyman said he was pleased about the extra help to tackle house repossession in Thanet.

John Healey, minister for housing said Thanet is among 56 repossession hot spot areas in the UK being targeted for extra help.

Dr Ladyman said: "I am delighted the minister has recognised the need for extra help for Thanet. Thousands of people have already been helped by the Government at this difficult time but there are still people in Thanet having trouble keeping up the mortgage and good, independent advice is vital for them."

Others areas in Kent to benefit are Dartford, Gravesham and Medway.

Nearly 88,000 people have gone to www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagelhelp since its launch in September, over 26,000 of whom have used it to develop personal action plans tailored to their individual circumstances.



Property TV SPONSORED BY WWW.THEMORTGAGESHOP.CO.UK



THE FRENCH IDYLL: For many British people the typical rustic French farmhouse remains at the top of their list when they are looking to invest or live in a home abroad



What you should know about buying abroad

KENT'S potential investors in overseas properties will do well to check out homes in France and Italy this year as two of the most stable markets.

The National Association of Estate Agents International said that, as always, any potential profits to be made will be down to the strength of sterling.

It said purchasers should look at what it called 'less risky' investments and in particular towards the more stable markets such as France and Italy.

But for the very best bargains, buyers should try Spain or Turkey, where the former has seen spectacular falls in property prices during the past 18 months.

But the association predicts prices will remain stable in the first quarter of 2010, so purchasers should consider making cash offers by March to secure a bargain in any of these countries.

And experts predict the balance of supply and demand will stabilise once house prices pick up and the pound strengthens against the euro.

Linda Travella, spokeswoman on Italy at NAEA International said: "After a slow start to the year, the last quarter of 2009 saw sales and interest returning to the international market, with Italy being considered a safer investment than many other markets around the world.

"As always, the strength of the pound will

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

have a significant bearing on the quality and quantity of sales, and this year it looks to stay at the same strength.

"Even though the UK appears to have fallen behind other economies in the race out of recession and economic recovery, sterling has held pretty firm against the single European currency, trading two to three cents either side of 1.10 during the second half of last year.

"For the first quarter of 2010 the number of international buyers is expected to remain low and therefore offers are more likely to be accepted making it a very good time to purchase an overseas property.

"However by late spring, property prices are expected to increase by three to five per cent. Key areas to invest in include Tuscany, Le Marche and the Lakes of Maggiore and Garda, where good deals can be found if you buy sensibly."

And Des Rowson, spokesman on Spain, added: "It has seen a difficult 12 months on the sales front as buyers have been particularly reticent about purchasing during an economic downturn.

"Bargains are available but remember, price reflects position and quality. Unfortunately the coming year will not change too much until we see the pound strengthening and clients accepting that the registered agents do know what purchasers are prepared to pay."

Top 10 tips for buying abroad

from www.mortgages.co.uk

- Never sign a contract that you do not understand (for example - if it is in a foreign language).
- Seek specialist advice from independent solicitors, architects and surveyors who know the country's laws.
- Ensure you do not inherit a debt on the property before you purchase, which a solicitor should be able to check - some developers borrow money against the plot to raise finance.
- Always give yourself a 'cooling off' period if you see a 'must-have property' and are tempted to put down a deposit.
- If you are arranging finance on the property, ensure in any contract and you have an 'opt-out clause' if a loan is not agreed.
- Try to arrange your mortgage finance 'in principle', before agreeing to purchase the property or pay a deposit.
- Arrange your mortgage in the currency that you earn in where possible, unless you'll receive rental in local currency.
- Think about combining your cash with friends or family: it could bring a villa with pool within your financial reach.
- Check with the estate agent or vendor that you are aware of the costs charged by the legal and government authorities for purchasing a property. Remember that bills do not end at the asking price.
- Open a bank account in your chosen country and ensure you get a Certificate of Importation for the money you bring in from your home country. Set up standing orders in a local bank account to meet bills and taxes. Failure in some countries will land you in court.

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- 2 RECEPTIONS
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION

- SHOWER ROOM
- 2 ENSUITES
- 1 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEX
- COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS

REF: Prestige_59893s



Chatham
- 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- 2 BED DETACHED ANNEX
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- ENSUITE TO MASTER

- SUN TERRACE
- UTILITY ROOM
- APPROX 20FT DRIVEWAY
- DETACHED GARAGE

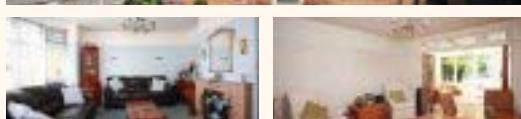
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- 1 BEDROOM ANNEX
- APPROX 20FT LOUNGE

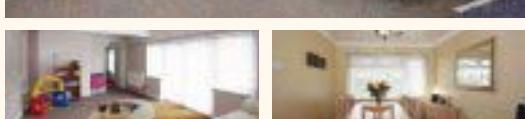
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Guide Price £155,000

This three bedroom semi detached home has recently been modernised and offers a L - shaped lounge/diner.



Offers in the region of £229,000

Three bedroom town house, the current owners have enhanced the property, modern full kitchen.



Asking Price £249,995

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£449,995

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£450,000

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- GARDEN & GARAGE EN-BLOC
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Rainham
- 3 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE
- KITCHEN-DINER
- PLANNING TO EXTEND TO THE SIDE
- DOUBLE GLAZING



OIEO £165,000
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO CHAIN
- MUST BE SEEN
REF: Rainham_61597S



Strood
- 4 BEDROOM SEMI DET HOME
- LOUNGE / DINER
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM



£260,000
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- CUL-DE-SAC POSITION
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- DETACHED GARAGE
REF: Walderslade_60110S



Milner Road
TO LET £995pcm
- 4 BED TERRACED PROPERTY
- KITCHEN / LOUNGE
- BATHROOM & SEP SHOWER
- IDEAL FOR STUDENTS
REF: inst-331



Rainham
- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- 4 BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN / DINER



Guide price of 215,000 £235,000
- STUDY
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GARAGE AND DRIVE
- MUST BE SEEN
REF: Rainham_60147S



Chatham
- 1 BEDROOM HOUSE
- BACK TO BACK
- CLOSE TO MAIN TOWN
- DOUBLE GLAZED



£112,000
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER
- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade_59947S



Bellgrove Court
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- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- "L" SHAPED LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
- OFF ROAD PARKING / GARAGE EN-BLOC
- INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: inst-335



Sittingbourne
- LINK DETACHED HOME
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CLOAKROOM



Guide Price 209,995 - £213,995
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER BED
- LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE
REF: Rainham_61131S



Chatham
- 2 BEDROOM HOME
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM



£107,000
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Wormshill
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- EASY TO MAINTAIN GARDEN
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
REF: inst-299



Chatham
- TERRACED HOME
- 3 BEDROOMS
- OLDER STYLE PROPERTY
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS



£139,995
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM / KITCHEN
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN WITH FAR REACHING VIEWS
REF: Walderslade_60187S



Wigmore
- CHALET BUNGALOW
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY



£335,000
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- GARAGE AND DRIVE TO REAR
- POPULAR LOCATION
REF: Rainham_60153S



Broadway
TO LET £695pcm
- 3 BEDROOM TERRACED PROPERTY
- LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: inst-337



Lordswood
- END OF TERRACE HOME
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTIONS
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM



£170,000
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARAGE
- EXTENDED
- MUST BE SEEN
REF: Walderslade_60799S



Gillingham
- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- LOUNGE



Guide Price £190,000 - £200,000
- KITCHEN / DINING AREA
- SHOWER ROOM
- GARAGE
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY
REF: Rainham_60687S



Heritage Road
£850pcm
- 4 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE PROPERTY
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE / DINING AREA
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
- ALLOCATED PARKING TO FRONT
REF: inst-302



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- MODERN INTEGRATED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZED FRENCH DOORS TO GARDEN
- FAMITH BATHROOM & EN-SUITE TO MASTER BED
REF: inst-312



Rainham
- 1 BEDROOM FLAT
- SEPARATE KITCHEN
- FIRST FLOOR
- BUILT IN WARDROBES



£105,995
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- REFITTED SHOWER ROOM
- COMMUNAL GARDEN
- TELECOM ENTRY SYSTEM
REF: Rainham_60093S



Maidstone
- RETIREMENT FLAT
- 1 BEDROOM
- 1 BATHROOM
- WARDEN CONTROLLED



£84,500
- SECOND FLOOR
- LEASEHOLD
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade_60105S



Hamwick Green
£625pcm
- 2 BED END OF TERRACE HOME
- LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINING AREA
- FURNISHED
- REAR GARDEN WITH FISH POND
REF: inst-292



Gillingham
- TERRACED HOME
- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- EXTENDED LOUNGE DINER
- CONSERVATORY



Guide Price £170,000 - £185,000
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- GARAGE AND DRIVE
- GOOD SIZE GARDEN
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Rainham_60133S



CHATHAM
- 2 BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOME
- LOUNGE / DINER
- MODERN REFITTED KITCHEN
- WHITE FITTED BATHROOM SUITE



£130,000
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- REAR GARDEN
- CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAYS
REF: Walderslade_60001S



The Yard
£650pcm
- 2 BED MID TERRACE PROPERTY
- KITCHEN / LOUNGE / DINER
- BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
REF: inst-300



Chatham
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOMS
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- DRIVEWAY TO THE FRONT



£135,000
- EAST TO MAINTAIN REAR GARDEN
- POPULAR LOCATION
- NO CHAIN
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade_60175S



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- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS



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- WALKING DISTANCE OF TRAIN STATION
- CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAY LINKS
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED
REF: Walderslade_60181S



Wildfell Close
£625pcm
- 2 BED MID TERRACE HOME
- FITTED KITCHEN / LOUNGE
- EASY TO MAINTAIN REAR GARDEN
- ALLOCATED PARKING
REF: inst-324



Lower Stoke
- END OF TERRACE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN



£160,000
- NEWLY FITTED BATHROOM
- SEPARATE SHOWER CUBICLE
- DETACHED GARAGE AND DRIVE
- VILLAGE LOCATION
REF: Walderslade_60170S



Chatham
- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- 3 GOOD SIZE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE / DINING ROOM
- CONSERVATORY



£189,995
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- GARAGE TO REAR
- POPULAR LOCATION
REF: Walderslade_60484S



Saunders Street
£550pcm
- 2 BED MID TERRACE HOME
- FITTED KITCHEN & UTILITY AREA
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN
REF: inst-277



Rochester
- STAMP DUTY PAID
- 4 BEDROOM HOME
- EXTENDED LOUNGE / DINING AREA
- KITCHEN OVER LOOKING BLOCK PAVED DRIVE



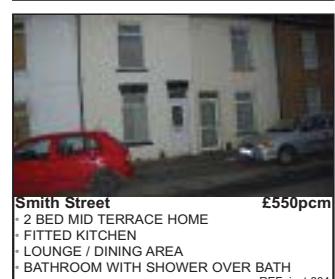
£189,995
- MASTER BED WITH EN-SUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- PARTIAL COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
REF: Walderslade_60156S



Gillingham
- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- GEORGIAN STYLE
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- LOUNGE



OIEO £375,000
- CONSERVATORY
- CLOAKROOM
- EN SUITE
- GARAGE AND DRIVE
REF: Rainham_61158S



Smith Street
£550pcm
- 2 BED MID TERRACE HOME
- FITTED KITCHEN
- LOUNGE / DINING AREA
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
REF: inst-304



Gillingham
- SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE / DINER
- KITCHEN / BREAKFAST ROOM



Guide Price £220,000 £240,000
- ENSUITE & DRESSING AREA
- WELL ESTABLISHED GARDEN
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- INTERNAL VIEWING IS A MUST
REF: Rainham_60151S



£155,000
- END OF TERRACE PROPERTY
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE / DINER
- CLOAKROOM



£155,000
- LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- RIVERSIDE LOCATION
- CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAY LINKS
REF: Rainham_60839S



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MOTORS NEWS



Black Edition marks 40 years on for 'Z' legend

NISSAN is celebrating 40 years of its legendary 'Z' sports car series with a Black Edition of the current standard bearer, the 370Z.

It is the latest in a line started by the then Datsun 240Z and still uses the classic rear-wheel drive layout preferred for sports cars. The Black Edition (from £36,645) is available to order now, in coupé form only, for April delivery.

It features unique red leather and suede interior with embossed 40th Anniversary logo seats and other premium features.



Sportage ready to step from RAV4's shadow

IF Kia's current Sportage is seen as a cut-price alternative to the increasingly expensive Toyota RAV4, its forthcoming replacement deserves recognition as a smart new model in its own right.

It is a fresh and sporty design blending the key features of a sports utility vehicle – commanding driving position and raised ground clearance.

The Korean marque says the new Sportage will arrive latter this year with a "highly competitive diesel and petrol engine line-up".



Skoda continues to help you save on a new buy

SKODA has extended its 'No-VAT' offer across all Octavia, Fabia and Roomster models, with a potential saving of up to £3,400. Instead of closing at the end of January, this deal continues with orders up to 31 March.

It means the popular Fabia supermini still costs from just £7,870 – saving up to £2,100 and including the eco-friendly Greenline (pictured) – while the award-winning Octavia range that played a major role in the marque's revival is available from just £10,526.



A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER: Mazda has opted for a lighter and lower design rather than premium-priced 'eco' models epitomised by their smart tax saving new-look Mazda3

Mazda's 'lighter and lower' philosophy is looking good

ROAD TEST

MAZDA3

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



the nimbleness of the car. So, with a typically crisp Mazda gearshift and direct steering plus a more than adequate 109bhp under the bonnet, this is a company or private buy that is easy to live with in all situations.

It cannot quite match the latest VW Golf for refinement, but is a more cost-effective option, to be judged more against the ubiquitous Ford Focus and latest Vauxhall Astra.

It looks leaner and more muscular than its rather frumpy predecessor and the cabin echoes the impressive Mazda6 in layout, style and quality, though rear legroom is only average for the sector.

Having driven most engines in the line-up now, test driving the well-equipped TS2 version of the 'cooking' diesel confirmed it as the 'go to' model for most buyers. By comparison, the 105bhp 1.6-litre petrol needs a lot of gearshifting to make progress, though still a rewarding drive.

For those who like the look of the '3', but crave more thrills, Mazda has also just launched the MPS hot hatch version (£21,500).

Arriving within months of the mainstream line-up this 257bhp turbocharged 2.3-litre petrol model can hit 62mph in just 6.1seconds and wears a bodykit to complement its good looks.



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BY STEVE LOADER @
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

SLASH YOUR MOTORING BUDGET

EVERYONE wants to slash their motoring budget and perhaps downsize too, but there's no need to buy new, even if used prices on top economy cars have boomed as 'gas guzzler' values went bust. Neither must you give up on style; admittedly, our choice here includes a couple of real motoring 'scrooge' options even though full of character, but BMW's Mini D can look after your wallet and street cred for a little more outlay upfront – you can be meaner and greener while making others green with envy

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S five-door city car shows that a highly space-efficient interior does not have to result in a utilitarian exterior. The compact Italian is also decent to drive, cheap to insure and costs peanuts to run. The original Panda of the 1980s was also cheap and cheerful, but didn't feature the cutting-edge technology and better build of its modern day counterpart. A lively turbodiesel – averaging more than 65mpg – and a rugged little 4x4 option only add to the Panda's attractions.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT 107



PEUGEOT'S smallest model is the best-seller of a joint venture three and five-door city car project that also spawned the Toyota Aygo and Citroën C1. All come from the same production line in the Czech Republic and, with minor styling tweaks, are modern, stylish, cheap to run and reliable. Launch prices were not as cheap as expected, but robust new car sales and second-hand values indicate that the public is willing to pay to save money and the planet.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MINI D



USED values for the frugal yet lively diesel version of BMW's reborn Mini are steep, but the rewards are worth it; the car drives well, oozes class, will save money while you run it and be worth more when you sell. The downside is a relatively cramped interior in comparison with its exterior – the antithesis of its all-British forebear – and rarity when buying. A late 'Mark II' petrol version with BMW's eco-friendly 'Efficient Dynamics' package is a possible alternative though.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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FIAT 500 1.2 POP S/S	47 Monthly payments	£ 128.87
On the road	£9300 Optional final payment (inc £285 fee)	£ 3127.00
Deposit	£1900 Total amount payable	£11388.87
Balance financed	£7400 Typical APR	9.8%

J G Burgess & Company
Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB
Tel: 01795 423815



Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 1.2 Pop (mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions: Urban 44.1 (6.4) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) Combined 55.4 (5.1). CO₂ 119 g/km).

2011 Euro NCAP star rating is based on the latest available test results. The latest available test results are available at www.euroncap.com. The Euro NCAP star rating is not a recommendation to buy a car. Other factors, such as safety, reliability and running costs, should be considered. Always wear a seat belt. © 2011 Euro NCAP. All rights reserved.



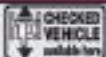
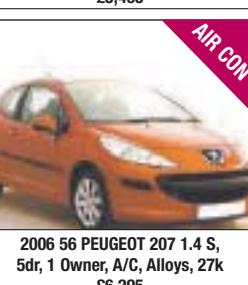
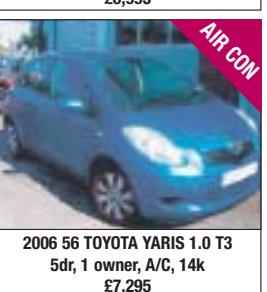


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Senior & General Appointments 42-44

Public Notices 44



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Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow.

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Closing date: 12.00 noon, Friday 26th February 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

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someone who wants a career, not a job.

If you feel that you have the will and the drive to
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your CV with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department,
Wilmoths Citroën Maidstone, Sutton Road,
Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 8RD
or e-mail: sales@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk

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Salary will depend on experience.
Please apply online at
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Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent.
We are a public/private sector partnership supporting
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We are expanding our team thanks to support from our
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Marketing Assistant

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Marketing Assistant

This role will involve all aspects of campaign delivery including
PR, online, leaflet agencies, print, and fulfilment house;
the production of a range of marketing material and the
analysis of marketing results. The successful candidate will
have a marketing background with experience of working in
the tourism industry and will be a confident, outgoing person
with excellent communication skills and ideally proficiency in
French.

Salary £17,938 - £20,888

Visit www.visitkent.co.uk for more details of the position
and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson
on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 19th February 2010.

Interviews will be held on 25th February in Canterbury.

This advertisement first appeared on 6th February 2010.



Finance Coordinator

(French speaker preferred), Canterbury based but able to travel
to Maidstone approximately twice a week and to France, The
Netherlands and Belgium periodically for meetings. The focus
of the role will be the preparation of monthly management
accounts, budgeting and forecasting, cash flow, organising and
supporting external audit of EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa projects,
monitoring of project budgets and budget holders. Must have
excellent systems skills (Excel & Sage) and be capable of robust
and detailed analysis as well as the ability to liaise at senior levels.
Experience in a financial environment and with European projects
preferred.

Relevant tertiary qualifications required although **candidates
actively studying will be considered.**

Salary £25,000 - £30,000

Visit www.visitkent.co.uk for more details of the positions and
application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson
on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 24th February 2010.

This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership
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CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH VACANCIES: WEDNESDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2010

Interviews to be held w/beg 22 February 2010

(please note only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Please send your letter of application, clearly stating to which position you are applying,
together with a completed Application Form (available on the school website) and CV to:

Mr.S.Rayner, Finance and Business Manager, to the above address.

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This is a new senior management role working directly for the Managing Director. You will be a Strategic Planner/Thinker with a track record of achievement in a contract environment. Sound financial experience (budgeting/forecasting) is essential as you will need to monitor contract costs, develop benchmarking criteria and ensure contract performance metrics are achieved. You will have excellent communication skills (both interpersonal and written) and be able to demonstrate success in developing new business opportunities within a long term contract environment.

If the challenge of these roles appeals to you: call Ken Pullan on 07725128661 for an informal discussion and/or forward a copy of your CV in the first instance to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk
Full details of these and other vacancies are available on www.midkent.ac.uk (follow Careers then RSME vacancies)

Closing date: 26th February 2010

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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KENT DA6 8DT 020 8304 8198 or email:
trevor.howard@whitehousegroup.co.uk

Closing date: 12th Feb 2010

Medway
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Consultant for Minority Ethnic Achievement (Traveller Education) Ref: CA0973C

Salary: Soulbury points 10-12 £42,227 – £44,454 per annum
Hours: 37 per week Location: Children and Adults – learning and caring directorate, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham

We are looking for a consultant with substantial and proven successful teaching and management experience in school for 19 April 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter, to be responsible for Minority Ethnic Achievement, and in particular for Traveller Education. The postholder will:

- provide training and school based consultancy to Medway primary and secondary schools to raise standards of teaching and learning and attainment for vulnerable pupils with a focus on minority ethnic pupils and in particular Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils.
- assist in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress and impact of provisions for vulnerable pupils in particular, GRT pupils in Medway schools.
- contribute to the raising of standards and improving inclusion of vulnerable pupils in Medway schools through training, challenge and support, and advice as required.

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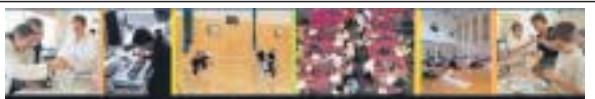
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Your role is to plan, organise, and lead play and learning activities within the Centres and in other community settings. You will take responsibility for running crèches within the service and will work together with Spring House colleagues, volunteers and local partner agencies to develop an integrated and holistic approach to pre-school learning and development. You will have a good standard of general education to GCSE level, and an NVQ 3 or equivalent in Childcare. You will also have a full driving licence with the use of a car for work.

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Salary in the order of £14,000 p.a. pro rata

21 - 28 hours per week, based at Spring House, Hospital Road, Sevenoaks

This role involves the provision of reception facilities at the Centre, handling telephone enquiries and welcoming members of the public and visitors to the Centre. You will provide general office clerical services and data input and you may be required to assist with the design and layout of publicity material. You will have a good standard of general education to GCSE level and an NVQ2 in administration or the ability to demonstrate an equivalent level of competence.

Appointments are subject to Spring House receiving a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

For an informal discussion please contact Maree Stephens on 01732 465539.

An application pack and further information can be obtained by either ringing 01732 465539 or emailing admin@springhouse.org.uk.

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TOUGH: Kevin Parrish looks ahead to a tricky run of games

Picture ALAN BOURNE

RUGBY



DOUBLE: Medway's Ollie Cargill (with ball) scored two tries on Saturday

Derby victory ends Medway losing run

Medway 41 Old Gravesendians 5

MEDWAY ended their three-game losing streak in style as they thumped local rivals Old Gravesendians on Saturday.

The home side ran in seven tries for their biggest win since October, which lifted Taff Gwilliam's side up to fifth in London 3 South East.

Both sides came into the game in poor form but Medway produced the better start. They went ahead after five minutes with a well-taken try by Luke Burns, converted by Glen Wadsworth.

Medway's good start continued immediately from the kick-off when the ball found its way to 18-year-old prop Sam Brice to complete a magnificent team try. They added a third score before 15 minutes had elapsed, Roger Rhyneheart picking up and driving over from close range. Dafydd Ruffell added the extras to put the home side 19-0 up.

Tenacity

It looked as if the home side would run away with the game but Old Gravesendians showed pride and tenacity. They dominated possession for ten minutes and despite some excellent defensive work, the pressure eventually told with an unconverted try.

Medway's reply was clinical. A set-piece move straight from the training ground orchestrated by Glen Wadsworth saw Burns score another unconverted try to make the half-time score 24-5.

The second-half followed much the same pattern as the first. Medway looked to play with width and stretch their opponents, but when they stretched their lead it came with a well-controlled push over try. Rhyneheart again finished the move to make it 29-5.

The match was finally sealed with a brace of Ollie Cargill tries. Glen Wadsworth converted one to make the final score 41-5.

Medway are at home again this Saturday against promotion seeking Charlton Park.

Dynamics recharge ahead of busy spell

ICE HOCKEY

A GAP in the fixtures allowed Invicta Dynamos to recharge their batteries last weekend ahead of a hectic run-in to the regular season over the next five weeks.

The time off gave the Mos plenty of opportunity for reflection after their second defeat at Bracknell this season the weekend before.

The 5-1 defeat was the side's biggest reverse of the season and it was a timely reminder to the Mos of the challenges which still lie ahead before they can retain their National South Division One title.

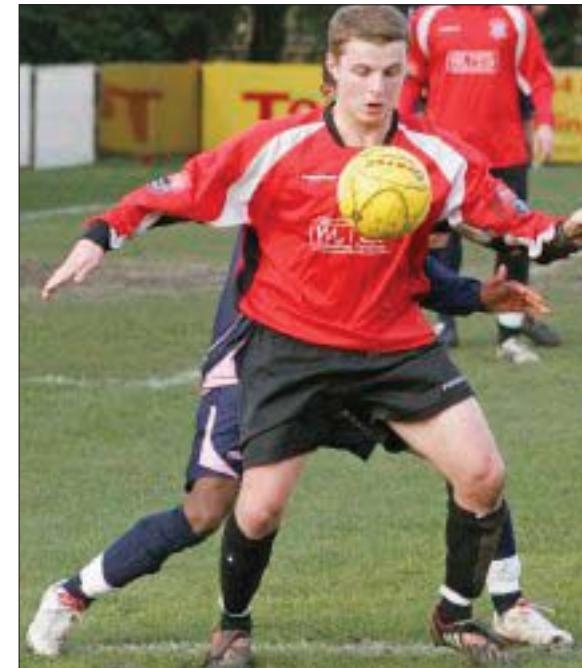
now we've got a very tough run-in. The fixtures could've been kinder to us, the top three or four teams can all beat each other away from home.

"We do need tough games week-in week-out but the only way we can do that is to move up a league, but then we'd be in the same situation as the bottom teams in our league because we'd struggle to win any away games."

Face-off for Sunday's home game against Wightlink Raiders at the Gillingham Ice Bowl is at 5.15pm



EXIT: Striker Lee Barnett (left) chose to leave Chatham Town as a result of budget cuts; the rest of the side failed to take their chances in a defeat at home to Dulwich Hamlet



Pictures ADRIAN LINE

Barnett bids his farewell as Chat's rue missed chances

LEE Barnett has left Chatham Town following the club's decision to cut the squad's wage budget.

The striker, a former youth player at Queens Park Rangers, joined in the middle of last season and went on to finish the club's top scorer.

His form in front of goal has been hampered by a series of injuries this season, limiting his influence.

The squad were informed of the club's decision to cut wages earlier this month.

Barnett was the only departure, with rumours linking him with a move to Ryman North high-fliers Thamesmead Town.

Chats boss Alex O'Brien was disappointed to see one of his strikers leave, but relieved the rest of the players remained committed.

He said: "With the pay cuts Lee turned round and said Chatham Town wasn't for him anymore and he wanted to try something else."

"The week of the Whitstable game [assistant manager] Lew Watts and I addressed the boys and said 'We're not going to stand in your way'. Lee was the only one, so it's fantastic the rest of the squad wanted to stay and give it a go and at least try to finish what we've started."

The post-Barnett era began with a disappointing defeat on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Chatham Town 0



Dulwich Hamlet 2

Kadi pen 40 & pen 64

Not for the first time this season, O'Brien was left wondering how his side had taken nothing from a game in which they had created more than their opponents.

Brendon Cass was joined up front by Ray Powell, with Rob Denness given a free role.

The Chats made the first decent chance when Michael Scott crossed from the right, but Powell blazed wide.

Jim Lyons forced a good save, but Dulwich went into the break ahead courtesy of a penalty. Ben Payne brought down Sanchez Ming and Junior Kadi sent Dean Ruddy the wrong way.

Cass and Powell were replaced at half-time by Justin Ascheri and Jack Pullen, a teenager recruited for a month from Dartford's youth set-up.

Chatham Town starting XI



Subs used: Ascheri (Powell 46), Pullen (Cass 46)

The second-half followed a similar pattern to the first – Chatham pressure giving way to a Kadi penalty, this time after a foul by Ashley Probets. It was hardly the ideal way for the club to launch their Community Scheme, overseen by MP Jonathan Shaw.

O'Brien's attention now switches to Saturday's trip to Chipstead, where he is desperately hoping his side have more of a cutting edge.

He said: "We need to go on a run of three or four games. Good teams take their chances, it's got so frustrating because there have been games where hand on heart we should've won."

"I'm sure someone will be on the end of a 5-0 from Chatham, because we create so many opportunities."

Pressure on Stimson after Bees sting Gills

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Brentford 4

MacDonald pen 10 & pen 33, Weston 35 & 79

Gillingham 0

MARK Stimson dismissed any suggestions of walking away from Gillingham following Saturday's dismal defeat at Brentford, but he did admit it was the lowest point of the season to date.

More damaging than the FA Cup exit at Accrington Stanley last month, at the start of a critical week it emphatically halted the momentum built by three successive draws.

A good result would have set them up for crunch fixtures against fellow strugglers Tranmere (last night) and Yeovil (Saturday), but instead the game ended with a chorus of boos for the trampled visitors.

Stimson, who was subjected to chants of "you're getting sacked in the morning" by the jubilant home fans, was as candid as ever.

He said: "I've always said I'll do my best until the chairman tells me any different. It's not happened to me yet but every manager is hired to be fired.

"It's the lowest point of this season. We've



UNDER FIRE: Mark Stimson has no intentions of leaving Gillingham in the wake of Saturday's defeat at Brentford

just had three games where I thought we'd got something going and I thought we'd come here with everyone looking in the right shape.

"I hurt after every defeat but the way it was done, it's not worth me standing here and saying too much about the referee because I'll just get myself in trouble. I said to the players 'don't blame the referee, blame yourself for letting the ball get into that area of the pitch'."

Fiery recent battles, plus a running feud between Stimson and Bees manager Andy Scott, turned Griffin Park into a cauldron. The Gills boss needed an escort to reach the bench, with one Brentford fan narrowly missing when he threw a half eaten burger.

But the home faithful were quickly silenced. Simeon Jackson should have scored inside two minutes, but his shot was superbly tipped onto the post by Wojciech Szczesny. The highly-

Gillingham starting XI



Subs used: Weston (Walker 58), Rooney (Bentley 58), McCammon (Barcham 75)

rated Polish stopper also twice saved from Andy Barcham inside the first ten minutes.

All the good work vanished when Darren Dennehy's attempted back pass went straight to Charlie MacDonald. The striker fell as he rounded Alan Julian and converted the resulting penalty. MacDonald scored another penalty on 33 minutes, although only the referee could see anything wrong with Kevin Maher's challenge on Toumani Diagouraga.

The visitors had no cause for complaint about the third goal, which was of entirely their own design. Another mis-placed back pass, a poor clearance and dreadful marking allowed Myles Weston to hammer home.

Brentford eased off in the second-half but were still able to stretch their lead. Weston again making the most of defensive frailties to make it 4-0.

The performance left Stimson looking to recruit more steel to his side, which he felt was "too nice", but after bringing in four new players in the last fortnight any more signings are unlikely until others go out on loan.

It all set up a huge game against Tranmere last night, log on to www.yourmedway.co.uk for the reaction.



TEAM TALK

with Gills skipper BARRY FULLER

'Supporters were great and we let them down'

THERE were a few harsh words from the gaffer after Saturday's defeat at Brentford, but as players we knew we had let ourselves down massively before anything was said.

The supporters were brilliant and it was great to hear them making such a noise through the game, but we let them down too. It hurt, we were so disappointed and frustrated because as individuals we just didn't perform as well as we should have.

As a player you should always go out trying to be the best player on the pitch. On Saturday there were a lot of us who weren't even close to being that.

The strange thing was the first ten minutes was probably one of the best games we have started in a long time. We had a couple of good chances and if one of them went in you never know what might have happened. It wasn't to be and an error cost us, we could've cleared our lines but we tried to be a bit smart and it changed the game.

The second goal was a bit harsh, when the referee blew we assumed it was for a dive. We had to try and get over it but we didn't react, went too gung ho and lost our shape, which allowed their third goal.

We tightened up in the second-half but we were still nowhere near where we should have been.

There's no getting away from it: we're in a relegation battle. A few results in a row would make us more comfortable in the table but until we do that we're in a fight to stay up.

The good thing was we had last night's game against Tranmere to get Brentford out of our system quickly. Hopefully we got a result to give us that bit of confidence heading to Yeovil on Saturday.

LEAGUE TABLES

(BEFORE LAST NIGHT'S FIXTURES)

COCA-COLA LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Norwich City	30	19	6	5	+33	63
2 Leeds United	28	18	7	3	+29	61
3 Charlton Athletic	30	15	12	3	+20	57
4 Colchester United	28	15	7	6	+4	52
5 Millwall	29	13	10	6	+12	49
6 Yeovil Town	27	13	10	4	+19	49
7 Huddersfield Town	27	13	7	7	+20	46
8 Milton Keynes Dons	29	14	4	11	-6	46
9 Bristol Rovers	28	12	3	13	-8	39
10 Brentford	28	9	10	9	-1	37
11 Leyton Orient	29	9	8	12	-5	35
12 Southampton (-10)	28	11	11	6	+15	34
13 Walsall	27	8	10	9	+1	34
14 Yeovil Town	29	8	10	11	-2	34
15 Carlisle United	28	8	10	10	-4	34
16 Hartlepool United	30	8	8	14	-10	32
17 Southend United	28	8	7	13	-7	31
18 Exeter City	30	7	10	13	-11	31
19 Oldham Athletic	26	7	8	11	-9	29
20 Gillingham	29	7	8	14	-11	29
21 Brighton & Hove Albion	28	7	8	13	-13	29
22 Tranmere Rovers	28	7	5	16	-23	26
23 Wycombe Wanderers	30	5	8	17	-25	23
24 Stockport County	28	3	7	18	-31	16

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	24	17	5	2	+20	56
2 Croydon Athletic	24	14	6	4	+28	48
3 Fleet Town	25	15	3	7	+21	48
4 Worthing	25	14	3	8	+14	45
5 Godalming Town	22	13	3	6	+15	42
6 Walton & Hersham	25	12	5	8	+6	41
7 Dulwich Hamlet	26	9	10	7	+5	37
8 Burgess Hill Town	24	10	6	8	+4	36
9 Chatham Town	27	11	3	13	-10	36
10 Sittingbourne	22	10	5	7	+14	35
11 Horsham YMCA	27	8	11	8	+5	35
12 Ramsgate	24	9	7	8	0	34
13 Corinthian-Casuals	25	10	3	12	-7	33
14 Merstham	25	9	6	10	-8	33
15 Eatherhead	22	9	3	10	+8	30
16 Welling	24	9	3	12	+2	30
17 Metropolitan Police	23	7	7	9	+4	28
18 Walton Casuals	25	6	6	13	-11	24
19 Chingford	26	6	6	14	-14	24
20 Whittlebury Town	24	6	2	16	-33	20
21 Eastbourne Town	26	3	9	14	-29	18
22 Ashford Town	23	2	8	13	-34	14

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	17	13	2	2	+30	41
2 Herne Bay	15	11	1	3	+16	34
3 Erith & Belvedere	17	9	2	6	+3	29
4 Hythe Town	14	8	4	2	+25	28
5 Erith Town	14	7	3	4	+8	24
6 Deal Town	14	6	4	4	-2	22
7 Tunbridge Wells	15	5	7	6	-5	22
8 Sporting Bengal United	19	5	4	10	-22	19
9 Norton Sports	14	5	1	8	-5	16
10 Holmesdale	16	4	2	10	-7	14
11 Corinthian	16	3	3	10	-16	12
12 Fisher	18	3	3	12	-21	12
13 Lordswood	14	1	5	8	-38	8

FIXTURES (Saturday): COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE: Yeovil Town v **Gillingham**

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Chipping Norton v **Chatham Town**

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: **Lordswood** v Herne Bay

King taking small steps on the road to recovery

FOOTBALL

GILLS defender Simon King has cleared an important hurdle in his rehabilitation from a serious ankle injury but it is still far from certain whether the defender will play at all this season.

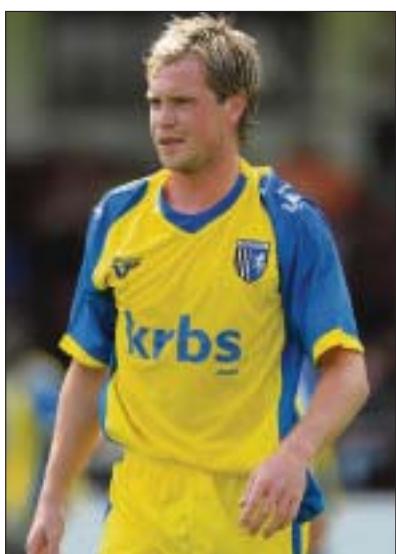
The 26-year-old damaged ankle ligaments falling awkwardly in a pre-season friendly at Bromley last July. It needed surgery to correct the problem and although King came off the crutches in October, he only got the go-ahead from specialists to begin jogging last week.

The centre-back's programme began with only a few minutes light jogging on Thursday. After such a long time out, King admitted before the session he dreaded suffering a set-back.

"It's that nervous anxiety feeling where I've never been so scared but also I've been looking forward to this day for months," he said.

King is on course with his recovery, but must still take his rehabilitation on a day-by-day basis. Although there are three months of the season still to play, there is no guarantee of recovering match fitness in time to make a first-team return.

He said: "I think realistically a lot of people say I won't play again this season, but obviously I'm ambitious and I'd love to play some part. A couple of months from now we've got some tough games and if we're in a relegation battle – hopefully we're not – you never



RECOVERING: Simon King began jogging last week

know the gaffer might not want to put me in there. Ideally for me it would be nice if we had eased away from it and had nothing to play for, then he might stick me in and get a few minutes."

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A close-up photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes, nose, and mouth. A red, starburst-shaped graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image. Inside the starburst, the text 'The worlds Number 1 cosmetic treatment' is written in a white, serif font, with 'Number 1' being the most prominent word.

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A cartoon illustration of a man with a tattoo on his chest looking at a woman holding a laser pointer. The man is shirtless, wearing a black baseball cap and sunglasses. The woman is wearing a green t-shirt and sunglasses, holding a laser pointer. The background is a light blue gradient.

A woman from the back, showing her shoulders and back, demonstrating the results of the treatment.



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A woman with blonde hair and a pink flower in her hair is smiling broadly, showing her white teeth. The background is a bright, sandy beach. The text is overlaid on the image.